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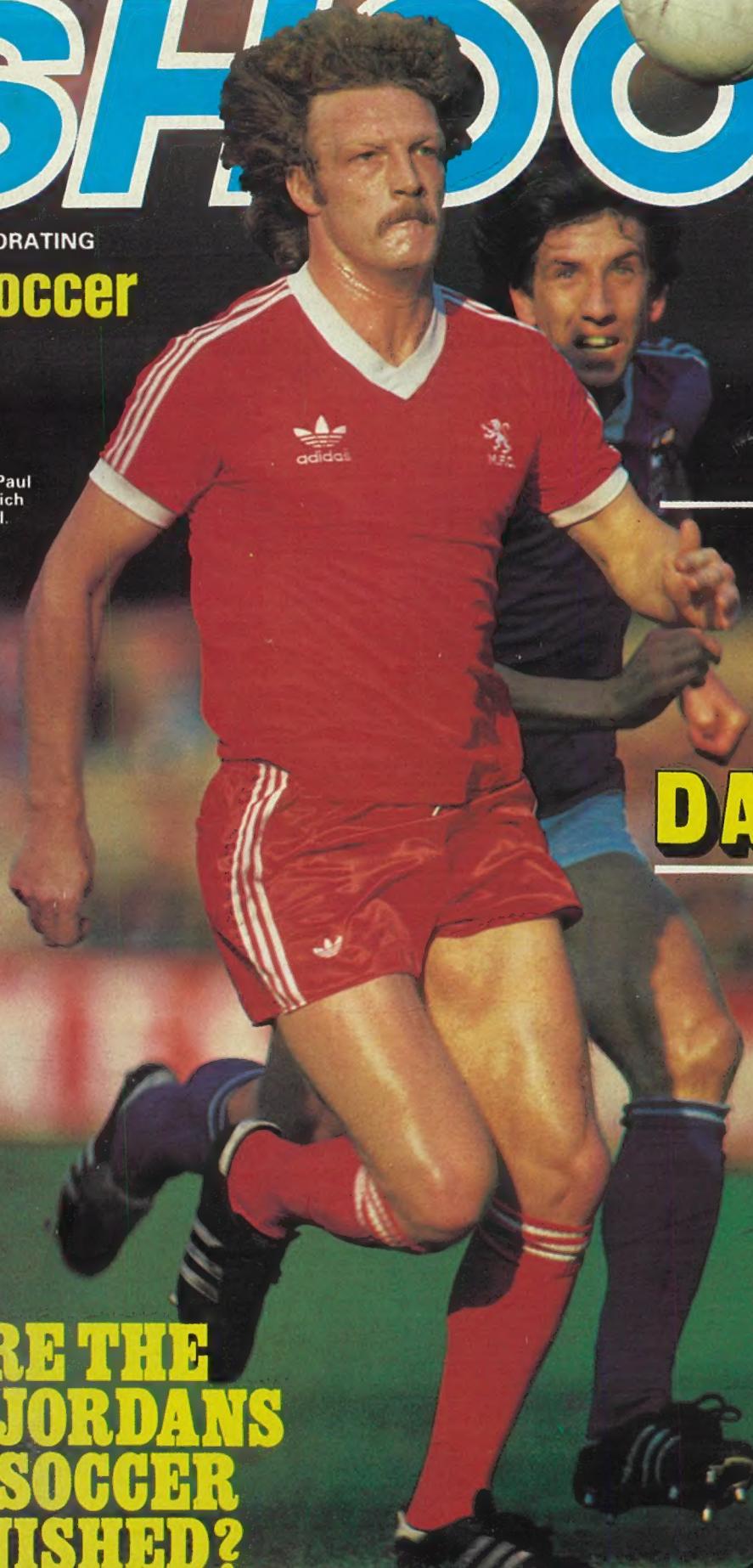
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16th FEBRUARY, 1980

Middlesbrough
centre-half Billy
Ashcroft beats Paul
Mariner of Ipswich
Town to the ball.



IN COLOUR
FOCUS ON
**KENNY
DALGLISH**

**DAVE
WATSON
STORY-
Part Two**

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JOE JORDANS
OF SOCCER
FINISHED?**

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With the increasing use of the 4-4-2 formation in the modern game, the traditional centre-forward is becoming an endangered species. So SHOOT asked four leading stars ...



'SMALL STRIKERS POSE PROBLEMS'

**Joe Gallagher
(Birmingham)**

ing the spearhead-type of leader, while others operate without a recognised centre-forward.

As a centre-back, I relish a game against Jordan, Bob Latchford or Joe Royle, because their clubs play to the strengths of these players, which is in the air — and I consider myself strong in this department.

Joe Jordan, with his physical approach to a game, poses different problems for a centre-back than a smaller striker.

Ability

In set-piece situations I make a point of marking Joe, whereas it would be a waste of time for me to mark Lou Macari — obviously, with his heading ability, Jordan cannot be left alone by any defence.

Then there is Kenny Dalglish, a smaller type of goalscorer who is so dangerous when the ball is played to his feet. I rate him the best striker in the game.

Kevin Keegan, another player I admire, is small, like Dalglish, and also difficult to mark out of a match. Neither Kenny nor Kevin are spearhead leaders like Joe Jordan, who I believe is the best of the



Lou Macari (right) has done well without big Joe Jordan.

MANCHESTER United have proved they can do without the traditional centre-forward by using Steve Coppell and Lou Macari up-front when Joe Jordan was injured. Steve and Lou are both small, and it suited United to use them in attack in the circumstances.

And when Birmingham played Watford, it took some time for myself and the rest of our defence to adjust to Watford not using a recognised centre-forward, relying instead on two men on each flank.

On the other hand, a fit Joe Jordan leading the Manchester United attack is a formidable opponent, and I think a team can be effective up-front by adopting the style that suits them best with the players available.

Some teams get results by hav-

ing the spearhead-type of leader, while others operate without a recognised centre-forward.

I certainly can't see clubs leaving recognised centre-forwards out of their line-ups when these men are available to them, although teams are always ready to experiment in an aim to improve their game.

Since Archie Gemmill joined Birmingham, we have altered our approach to getting the ball up to our front runners. Previously we

hit a long ball from the back, whereas the ball now goes from defence to midfield and then to the forwards.

In employing these tactics, we are not using an orthodox centre-forward, and I repeat what I said earlier — clubs will attack in the formation they think is best suited to them. With or without the traditional spearhead centre-forward.

had some unhappy moments against him. Forest have altered his role, and I don't fear him quite so much now.

And its from the way that teams use their available players that their tactics are evolved. Personally, I don't believe that most First Division teams today play in a way that encourages the use of the old-fashioned centre-forward. Tactics

are more subtle, and the use of a big number nine simply to charge headlong at today's massed defences doesn't often bring about the best results.

Many sides now prefer four men in midfield and two up-front, one of them often a winger. This way the ball is moved from the back to midfield, then forward, with less emphasis on the big boot.



'TREVOR FRANCIS GAVE US NIGHTMARES'

**John Shaw
(Bristol City)**

David Johnson as decoys in the penalty-area, moving away to leave spaces for the oncoming Ray Kennedy and Terry McDermott to fill. Everton, on the other hand, have gone in for an entirely different sort of game.

They continually aim the long ball forward for Latchford, and often push big Mick Lyons up-front as well. Obviously Everton were hoping that Bob and Mick could use their headwork to create scoring chances.

Problems

Of course, a big fellow throwing his weight around the penalty-area can cause problems for a defence. When Ray Hankin plays for Leeds against us his team-mates are aiming all sorts of passes at him, and Ray was catching them at chest and knee height. He really gave our defence a hectic afternoon.

But the player who has always given me nightmares is Trevor Francis. With Birmingham, Trevor was a footballing centre-forward who could score goals with skill and ability, and as a goalkeeper I



Trevor Francis (left) gives the Bristol City defence a scare.

THE old-type, battering ram centre-forwards, who clobbered goalkeepers, were strong and courageous and never shirked a tackle, are almost non-existent now in the First Division. In fact, Joe Jordan is the only one in this mould. And even he is now prevented by the referees from charging opposing keepers.

But having said that, there is still room in some teams for the spearhead leaders such as Bob Latchford, Joe Royle and Andy Gray. In the Second, Third and Fourth Divisions, where there is less skill, there are more teams who rely on the straightforward tactic of simply hitting a long ball forward for a big fellow up-front to chase.

But Liverpool, for example, rely less on the head-on approach, often using Kenny Dalglish and

Jordans finished?



'I GO FOR BIG STRIKERS'

**Tommy Hutchison
(Coventry)**

the England side, where Kevin feeds off Bob.

In the Liverpool side today, Kenny Dalglish is a star performer, but here again, it is a case of an accepted centre-forward like Dave Johnson making a successful duo along with Kenny.

On the other hand, if Liverpool had Kevin Keegan up-front alongside Kenny Dalglish, I don't think they would function as well together as a two-pronged spearhead, as they would with a bigger man alongside them.

Traditional

And although goalscoring is vitally important to a centre-forward, there is a traditional-type leader of the calibre of Joe Jordan, who isn't a prolific scorer. But what Joe does with tremendous effect is to cause panic among opposing defenders by his physical challenge — and in doing so, he creates chances for his team-mates.

At Coventry, Ian Wallace benefits from having Mick Ferguson alongside him. Ian got less goal chances when Mick was out of the side, but was soon on target again when Mick returned.

A team desperate for a goal, and with time running out, always has a chance if they have an accepted leader in their attack — if necessary, defenders can just pump the ball into the opposing penalty-area. If there is an Andy Gray, Bob Latchford or Joe Jordan there, there is hope, and that is why I'm all for having a traditional centre-forward at all times.

ITHINK that every team functions better with the traditional type of centre-forward. As a winger, I like to see a target man in the middle of the goalmouth for me to aim my crosses at.

This applies particularly in these days of massed defences, when the penalty-area is crowded with players. With a man like Andy Gray in the middle, there is always the chance that he will get on to the end of a centre. Even if he doesn't get the ball into the net himself, he can often present a team-mate with a scoring opportunity.

So, apart from the goals that he actually scores, a big centre-forward is valuable for the nobs, and flicks, that he gives to his team-mates. For example, Alan Shoulder, at Newcastle, benefits from the help he receives from Peter Withe, who is so good in the air, and this same sort of partnership exists in other teams.

One of the most famous link-ups of this sort was the one perfected by John Toshack and Kevin Keegan at Anfield.

Each player was highly successful because of the understanding he achieved with the other. The heading ability of big John was an important factor in the partnership.

In the same way, Kevin likes to play alongside Bob Latchford in



Peter Withe (stripes) is a key man in the Newcastle line-up.



'WE DON'T NEED SPEARHEADS'

**John Craggs
(Middlesbrough)**

Everton, too, have a man who is good in the air — Bob Latchford. But Bob misses the service once provided by Dave Thomas on the wing. His crosses were often pinpointed to Latchford and brought goals.

When we played them in November, Everton relied on aiming long balls into our penalty-area, and gave our defence a lot of work to do — but they would have put much more pressure on us if they had had the players who could have got behind our defenders.

However, it is a fact that if a team continually pumps high balls into the opposing penalty-area, a certain percentage of these will be won in the air by a big, spearhead-type of centre-forward — and from his flicks and knockdowns, his team-mates may be able to create a goal chance.

THE traditional type of centre-forward is not really necessary in certain teams. Liverpool, for example, are such a good all-round side that their goals can come from any department of the team, with players like Ray Kennedy and Terry McDermott always ready to come from behind into goalscoring positions.

And at Middlesbrough, since Billy Ashcroft has moved from centre-forward into the back-four, we have adopted a different attacking technique. Instead of hit-



Bob Latchford (left) misses Dave Thomas on the wing.

ting long balls forward into the opposing penalty-area, we now prefer to get behind their defence and pull the ball back. We use the method which best suits us.

But at Newcastle, they operate in a different way. They use two big men, Peter Withe and Billy Rafferty, with Alan Shoulder playing off them. The system works because it poses extra problems for opposing centre-backs. One has to mark Withe, and the other is committed to sticking close to Rafferty, as both these Newcastle players are effective in the air.

In my opinion, the most difficult of the traditional, big, strong leaders to mark is Joe Royle. He is the sort of centre-forward it is hard to get close to, and in the air he is very dangerous. When Joe is getting the right service, he can create problems for defenders throughout the 90 minutes.

There is room in modern soccer for an accepted centre-forward, but there is more than one way to put pressure on defences. The successful teams are those which can do it consistently — sometimes without a spearhead number nine.

LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL second-leg WOLVES v. SWINDON TOWN

Disappointed winners

SWINDON claimed they had played badly and won. Wolves knew they had played well and lost. The fans knew they had witnessed the prelude to what promises to be one of the most dramatic Cup-ties Molineux has ever staged.

Wiltshire will be something of a ghost county next week when Town, and their followers, invade Wolverhampton for the second-leg of their League Cup Semi-Final.

And with a precious 2-1 lead to protect from that first leg, Swindon will undoubtedly draw on the confidence they have gained from dumping First Division Stoke and Arsenal out of the competition.

Wolves are no strangers to overcoming opposition from the lower Divisions. In fact Third Division Grimsby Town forced the expensive First Division side to three games in the Quarter-Finals before losing 2-0 on neutral territory.

All of which points to a marvellous Cup night with a place at Wembley the prize at stake.

Both clubs boast proud Cup traditions — albeit on different levels — so it all boils down to whether Swindon attempt to guard their lead or maintain their positive style by going for more goals.

The two managers did not utter the expected comments after the first-leg. Bobby Smith was cautious in victory, John Barnwell jubilant in defeat.

Smith said: "To be honest, I would have settled for the 1-1 draw before Alan Mayes grabbed the late winner. We were not at our best, although we never stopped fighting."

"But when you have a player of Alan's finishing ability up-front, that type of goal is always likely to happen."

"Obviously I am pleased to have won the first-leg. It gives us something to take with us to Molineux. But my players sat in the dressing-

room looking a bit disappointed, despite their win. They know they can do better than they did. And this is what we will aim to do next week."

"Our style is to attack. And this is what we will do at Wolves. Play to our strengths. I would like to think that we can go to Molineux and score another goal. That is the way to get to Wembley."

Barnwell was surprisingly chirpy after watching his team fritter away chances of a convincing first-leg victory and then let slip the lesser advantage of a draw.

"What matters most of all is that it was a good, solid performance by my lads. And on the evidence of what I saw at Swindon, I know now that we have a good chance of reaching Wembley."

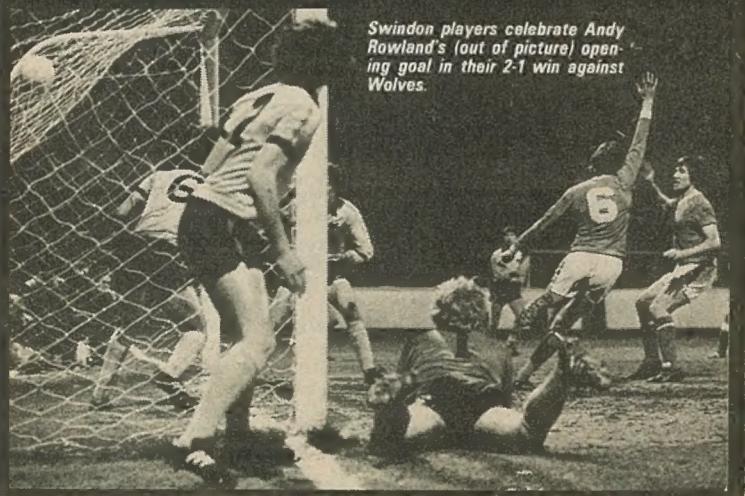
Dave Thomas gave his best performance since we signed him and I was pleased with the way we approached the game.

"I am not under any illusions. Swindon will come to Molineux looking for more goals. They have a lead, but it is the slenderest lead possible."

Perhaps the most significant comment of the night came from Wolves £1.5 million Scottish international striker, Andy Gray, who pointed out: "I rate Grimsby as a more difficult team to beat than Swindon. Why? Because while Swindon are more likely to cause you problems in your penalty-area, they are not as tight and mean at the back as we found Grimsby. Yet we beat them by two clear goals."

On the evidence of that first-leg, Swindon lack nothing in attacking sharpness. But Wolves looked the sharper and more incisive team — as they should as a First Division side facing one from the Third.

Better finishing by John Richards and Ken Hibbit would have made the second-leg a formality. Now it is anything but!



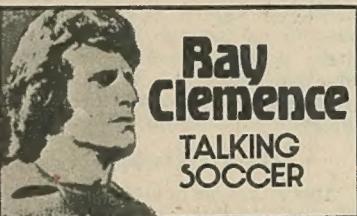
Swindon players celebrate Andy Rowland's (out of picture) opening goal in their 2-1 win against Wolves.

'WE'RE NOT'

FIRST Division players, especially internationals, are paid extremely well for a job most people would do for nothing. They should be capable of saving enough from their wages before retiring from the game without needing the revenue from testimonials. They're just money-grabbing."

That, in essence, is what many fans feel about the present system of clubs granting testimonial matches to players who have served them loyally for ten years.

Well, I think their attitude is wrong. And I speak as someone in the middle of his testimonial season, who could be accused of just



cashing in on his good fortune to be an England regular with Britain's most successful club.

Although we're handsomely paid, by the time we've met the extortionate rate of tax demanded by the Inland Revenue, and our expenses — which are high, because it's expected that a star footballer has an attractive life style, with a big house, etc. — there isn't much left to put by for the day when our all-too-short playing career ends.

A testimonial is designed to reward the man who has stayed loyal to a club for ten years, during which he probably resisted the lure of being transferred to other clubs and picking up his share of the fees. Admittedly, these are subject to tax, but even so he would be left with a nice lump sum to invest.

Business

The money from a testimonial can act as a buffer while a player sets up in business or becomes involved with another job or profession.

Only a small percentage of players get the opportunity to stay in the game in some sort of capacity.

Those who leave for another walk of life invariably find themselves competing with men who are half-way up the ladder, and so cannot expect comparable pay and status.

Football is such a demanding taskmaster for those players at the top — what with training, playing two matches a week for the club, international commitments and charity work, such as visiting hospitals — it's virtually impossible to learn another skill or develop a business.

It's only now that I'm almost 30 I've started an express delivery service for firms in and around Manchester and Merseyside, in partnership with my former Liverpool team-mate, Dougie Livermore, now



'In my testimonial year I don't expect to reach the amount reportedly raised for Emlyn Hughes'

coaching at Cardiff City, and a mutual friend.

I'm hoping to plough into the business some of the money collected by my testimonial committee when it's eventually passed to me.

What many people don't appreciate is that because of tax regulations a player must not handle his testimonial affairs, but rely on a committee, usually formed of friends.

I'm tremendously grateful to my committee, who have worked very hard to arrange all sorts of functions and events.

So far I've attended about five dances, and two nights at social clubs, all of which have been very well supported. It's been really marvellous realising that so many people wish me well and take the trouble to turn out.

One problem, of course, is fitting testimonial events into my busy football schedule. Ironically, being out of European football has helped

MONEY-GRABBERS'



somewhat in this respect.

It's also freed several of my team-mates to appear in testimonial games for people with other clubs. During the week of the Second Round of the European Cup, some appeared in that for manager Bobby Robson of Ipswich; Steve Heighway for an Oldham player; and Terry McDermott and Alan Kennedy went back to their former club, Newcastle, to support an old buddy.

My testimonial match, against Anderlecht on April 29th, has now been finalised, and so has a celebrity golf match on the previous Sunday, the 27th, to take place at Wallasey Golf Club, on the other side of the Mersey, near the tunnel entrance.

My committee tell me they have had acceptances from many showbiz personalities and sportsmen from different fields.

Because golf events are staged on Sundays, footballers can usually turn out for them. I've appeared, along with Kevin Keegan, for Geoff Arnold, the Sussex cricketer; and for Barry Wood, the Lancashire and England cricketer; and goalkeeper Alex Stepney when he was with Manchester United.

Although my testimonial year is going well, I don't expect to get anywhere near the £100,000 reported to have been raised for Emlyn Hughes last year.



John Robertson converts the penalty awarded against Ray.

But I shall be grateful for any sum that will help me to safeguard the future of myself and family.

I'm only too well aware of how fortunate I am compared with those players in the lower Divisions, many of whom barely get a living wage and often retire with little to show in the way of honours or money for their devotion to their clubs and the game.

It's a tragedy and I can't see a solution to their problem. Their clubs, with little money coming through the turnstiles, have a hard enough job keeping creditors at bay, and lack the funds to compensate their stalwarts.

On the other hand, I'm very critical of the recently-introduced practice of granting testimonials to big club managers after only two or three years at the helm. It's a farce.

I can see the point of rewarding a boss who has completed ten years, in line with players, but not after only a comparatively short spell.

If a club feels it wants to show its appreciation, then why not allow them to pay a bonus? That would be a fairer method.

Now for my previews of two impending games, the first at Anfield this Saturday, February 9th, against Norwich City in the League at Carrow Road.

After our last visit there, when we knocked The Canaries out of the League Cup by 3-1, in a tie we could have won by a hatful we were so dominant, their manager John Bond said: "There's only one thing wrong — we've got to play Liverpool again this season in the League."

From being one of our critics, Mr. Bond has become converted into a member of the Liverpool Appreciation Society and is continually singing our praises.

It's something we value, for we respect him for building a very competitive, well-organised side that's well-placed in the table to grab a place in next season's U.E.F.A. Cup competition.

must be respected.

The following Tuesday, at Anfield, I get the chance to wipe out one of the blackest memories of my career, when we play Nottingham Forest in the second-leg of the League Cup Semi-Finals.

The first-leg, at the City Ground, was truly a nightmare night for me.

After we'd tied the game for almost 89 minutes — but denied a goal by the brilliance of Peter Shilton and twice by a post — we lost to a penalty.

Before I faced up to that spot-kick I had had only one difficult shot to save.

I blame no one but myself for conceding the penalty when we were within 60 seconds of coming away with a draw.

It all started with Forest's Martin O'Neill threading the ball between our Alan Hansen and their Garry Birtles. Anticipating that Alan wouldn't reach it, I came out to dive for the ball.

But just as I committed myself to the save, Alan managed to get a touch the ball and divert it away from me.

I changed direction in a vain attempt to reach it, but in doing so collided with Garry and swept him down into the mud.

Unfortunately it ranked as a foul, but the ironic aspect is that if only I had stayed on my line Alan would have cleared the ball and we wouldn't have had a penalty awarded against us.

I found myself facing John Robertson in a carbon copy of the situation in the 1978 League Cup Final replay when Forest were awarded a dubious penalty. From that kick John scored the goal that brought Forest the trophy.

Although I rightly anticipated that John would place the ball to my right, he hit it so hard and accurately I didn't get a touch.

So now we're all set for an apparent repeat of the second-leg of the European Cup First Round in 1978.

'It was a nightmare for me'

But then Forest came with a 2-0 lead, harder to cancel out than their present one-goal advantage.

We're all looking forward to beating Forest by at least the same score, 2-0, as we achieved last season when we ended their record run of 42 games without defeat, and our recent F.A. Cup victory at the City Ground.

It'll be a full house, with 40,000 fans at least rooting for us Reds.

We mustn't let them down!

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Big time CROOKS

AS Stoke struggle to avoid relegation this season, the rest of the First Division are fighting to hold the Potters' striker Garth Crooks.

Crooks is already assured of his best ever total of First Division goals and the way he's going, he could beat his total of 18 in Division Two in 1977-78 - his best return so far.

His only other First Division experience, of course, was as Stoke went down in 1976-77. He played 23 games, scored six goals and finished top scorer, an indictment of the rest of his colleagues.

He says: "I was just a boy playing a man's game then. I grew up in the Second Division and learned there was more to playing than just scoring goals.

"I'm scoring plenty now, which is nice. But it's just as important that I'm contributing to the rest of the play.

"I started with four in the first three games this season and it's just carried on from there.

"It's not easy to score goals in the First Division, even though they let you play more there. I think I get respect from all the defenders but they're good, too.

"I wouldn't say they are physically tougher. They don't need to kick you, put it that way."

Crooks got his chance at Stoke after Tony Waddington had spotted him kicking a ball against a wall of the ground. But it's not true, says Crooks, that he put the former manager's window in.

'Genius'

Waddington recalls: "He was always around - kicking balls against windows, walls - even the office staff if they got in the way. You didn't need to be a genius to see the lad knew what he was doing. He just needed pushing in the right direction."

Crooks has mutual respect for Waddington. "I don't mean it as any disrespect to our present manager Alan Durban when I say that I enjoyed playing under Tony Waddington more.

"He gave players a great deal of freedom to express themselves, although it didn't always work."

Durban does things a different way. Says Crooks: "He is a brilliant tactician. He has got us playing to our strengths but for me, it's obviously not as exciting as it was under Waddington. But naturally, I play the way the manager wants."

In the summer, though, Crooks was set to leave Stoke.

"I wasn't scoring many goals at the beginning of the season, except for penalties and it got to the point where the manager decided that he wanted a



recognised scorer alongside Brendan O'Callaghan in the middle.

"He bought Paul Randall to play there and I was pushed out to the wing. I wasn't happy but as I was still in the team and we were pushing for promotion, I accepted it.

"In the summer, I told Alan Durban that I would rather leave if I couldn't play in my best position. He said 'Wouldn't you rather stay and fight for the place?'

"I did and I won the race. The roles are now reversed with me in the middle and Paul on the wing. But I'm always conscious that he's there waiting his chance."

The way Crooks is regularly scoring, Randall's got no chance.

In one devastating spell before Christmas, Crooks scored a hat-trick for England Under-21's on his debut and scored another three for Stoke 18 days later.

"I kept the second ball for myself. But after the England hat-trick, I went home and gave the ball to my mum."

As a schoolboy Terry Gibson stood on the terraces at White Hart Lane to cheer on his Tottenham hero — Steve Perryman.

Now — Gibson still goes there — but to line-up alongside Perryman in Spurs' first team.

Gibson, 17 two days before Christmas, made the big breakthrough in December. And he made such an impression it seems certain he will play a big part in Tottenham's plans for many years.

The phrase 'pocket Hercules' could have been invented for him, for at only five feet four inches he is obviously one of the smallest players in the Football League.

But the lack of inches does not prevent him 'putting himself about' as the saying goes.

Newspapers filled a lot of space showing Gibson with his shirt ripped after the Stoke game — a clash that brought a startling comment from the Potteries club veteran defender Mike Doyle.

'Assassinated'

"If he had tried that on a few years ago he would have been assassinated," said Doyle.

And you can bet a few more will feel that way about the tiny tearaway who has made the sort of progress most starry eyed kids only dream about.

He was determined to show enough to persuade Spurs to offer him a full professional contract on his 18th birthday, next December.

"Ever since I was a toddler I've thought about nothing but playing for Tottenham. I ate, drank, and slept the club."

"Steve Perryman was my instant hero. He was my favourite.

"I owe a lot to my Dad for the progress I have made. He has

never stopped encouraging me and always managed to find the time to take me out training.

"He used to run a boys club team in East London that produced players like Les Sealey, the Coventry keeper, and Steve Neville, who started with Southampton and then went to Exeter.

"All the London clubs — and a good many others — began to show an interest in me as I gained schoolboy honours for Waltham Forest, Essex, London and England.

"But I knew that if Tottenham made any move to offer me terms the rest would be wasting their time. They did — and I signed like a shot.

"Belgian giants Anderlecht wanted to sign me and were anxious for the whole Gibson family to go and live in Brussels. Not many kids fresh out of school get that chance. But I did not have to think about it long before turning it down.

"Even if I was still in the youth team at Tottenham I'd be happy, because I consider it an honour to be connected with the club.

"Breaking through to the first team is a real bonus. And when my

Terry Gibson SPURS

big chance came I must confess I was worried — even though I'm not the nervous type.

"The fears I felt were not for myself — but for the first team lads. They had all been so great to me that I was afraid of letting them down."

If Gibson ever decided to quit football he could make a useful living as a professional sprinter. For he is a real flier.

He clocked 11 seconds exactly for the 100 yards at 15. That was when he finished seventh in the All-England Schools Final at Hendon.

But the youngster who had been labelled a 'hit man for Subbuteo' by his mates in the England Youth team this year, is interested in football and nothing else.

His burning desire is to go right to the top of the tree. And after the way he has burst on the big time scene it would be a brave man who would back against him doing it.

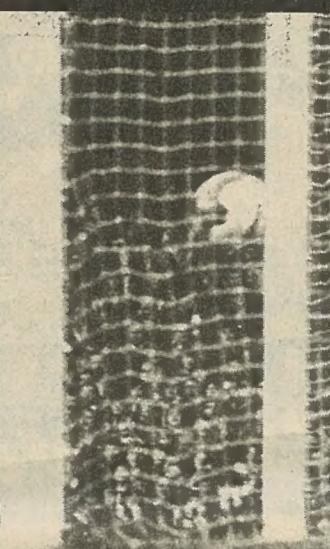


TEENAGE 'TEARAWAYS'

Terry Connor LEEDS



Terry Connor scores for Leeds against Manchester United.



end of last November when he was suddenly pulled out because he was wanted for the first team.

"I scored the winning goal against West Brom and I've been a hero ever since."

As a kid on the terraces, his hero was winger Eddie Gray. Now he finds himself playing alongside Gray in the first team.

"I never dreamed that I would find myself in that situation. I thought that by the time I made it to the First Division — if ever — he would be long gone."

"Eddie's fantastic. He used to coach me before I even joined the club. He was the guest at a coaching course I went on when I was about 13.

"Now he coaches me on the field. He is always telling me when to go on runs, when to drop back to receive a ball — and he knows just when to put it at my feet. Whenever I get the ball, I try and make an option for him."

For all his success, Connor still isn't sure that he'll make the grade as a professional footballer.

"I still have my doubts, I'm afraid. Every match I play, I think 'If I don't give 100 per cent in this one, I'll never make it.'"

It's because of his uncertainty that Connor is still going to college to study maths and economics. He already has four 'O' levels and if he gets his maths, he is planning to start on a business studies course.

"If I do make it in football, maybe I'll have enough money to start my own business one day."

THE top scorer in the Football League isn't Kenny Dalglish or Phil Boyer.

It's Leeds' 17-year-old striker Terry Connor. That's if you count the goals he scored in reserve and youth team football before he exploded into the first team in November.

The youngster has almost 30 goals in all. And the ones he has scored for the first team have played a big part in the Leeds revival.

Connor started with four goals in his first six senior appearances for Leeds and helped to end their

dismal start to the season which saw them in relegation trouble.

One of those goals clinched a 2-0 win at Stoke on the Friday before Christmas. Another tremendous winner was scored at Arsenal on January 12th.

But Connor is so unspoiled that in the dressing-room afterwards, he asked Adamson for permission to play in a youth team game the following morning.

"The boss wouldn't let me. The youth team had been going through a sticky spell and had been struggling to score goals. I thought I might have been able to

help them out."

Connor, who used to stand on the terraces at Elland Road, would play every day if Leeds let him.

"The junior lads give me a lot of stick about being a big first team star now, but it's all in fun.

"I played for them in an F.A. Youth Cup game at Sunderland and though I scored two goals, we lost 3-2. I was as sick as I would have been if we'd lost a first team game."

Connor had a dream start to his League career. He was preparing to play in a junior game on a Saturday morning towards the

Willie



WILLIE McLEAN has watched silently as his brother Jim has made the news in bringing Dundee United their first-ever honour in the shape of the League Cup, sold £400,000 Ray Stewart to West Ham and paid out £165,000 to Chelsea for Eamonn Bannon and £100,000 to Motherwell for Willie Pettigrew.

Jim McLean hasn't been far from the headlines one way or another this season, but his brother has shunned the spotlight as he tries to breathe new life into Ayr United.

He paid out under £20,000 to sign striker Derek Frye from his brother at Tannadice and another £30,000 was enough to persuade Davie Armour and Eric Morris to leave Rangers.

Troubled

The Ayr boss has also brought in something like £175,000 by selling goalkeeper Hugh Sproat and midfielder Brian McLaughlin to troubled Motherwell.

Although the glare of publicity has hardly touched on Somerset Park, McLean isn't complaining. He is working hard and it will take a disaster from preventing them putting in a fierce challenge for promotion at the end of the season.

Before the start of the First Divi-

will fix it for Ayr

sion programme even kicked off SHOOT took a look into the crystal ball and predicted that the Somerset Park part-timers would win a place in the Premier Division.

They faltered at the start and then sold midfield maestro McLaughlin, their most impressive player, but now they are getting things together and the partner-

ship of new boys Frye and Morris in the attack is beginning to pay off.

"Jim didn't do me any favours when I inquired about Derek Frye," says the Ayr boss. "I had to pay a realistic price for him."

"I was also happy to sign Armour and Morris. Both players had impressed me in the past and I thought they would be able to do a job for the club."

"I believed Morris was far too

good to be playing at full-back, the position he occupied in the Rangers reserves.

"He started his career as a forward and it was as a striker that I wanted him for my team. I believe scoring goals is a two-man job ... that's why I paired him with Derek Frye."

Another inspired move by McLean in the transfer market was persuading Motherwell manager Ally MacLeod to make 'keeper Stewart Rennie part of the deal that took Hugh Sproat to Fir Park.

MacLeod knew the ability of Sproat because he had been his boss on two occasions at Somerset Park. Likewise, McLean realised the talent of Rennie. After all, he had been his boss while he was in charge of Motherwell.

Rennie has been a model of consistency this season and, ironically, one of his best games came against Motherwell at Somerset Park that ended in a goalless draw. He was unbeatable that day.

The headlines might go to Jim McLean at the moment — and his brother certainly does not begrudge him his moments of glory — but Ayr are also on the right lines.

We feel that our pre-season prediction will come true. Ayr surely won't fail to clinch promotion for the lack of trying ...



Derek Frye accepts the congratulations after scoring another goal for Ayr.

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Tartan Talk

DANNY McGRAIN



FOR Percy Thrower and his fellow gardeners winter is a nightmare. Even tending the window box is a non-event when the weather switches the earth from a mud-heap to concrete overnight.

So if it means the close season for the green finger brigade, why oh why do the people who run the business of professional football insist in persevering with fixtures throughout December, January and February?

It is no fun sitting in a stand shivering from head to toe or freezing on the terraces trying to raise enthusiasm for your idols. And I can tell you it is even less enjoyable trying to earn a living on surfaces which would suit John Curry or Robin Cousins to the tips of their blades.

I realise this is an annual plea from certain quarters, calling for summer football and certainly it annoys me that it is all forgotten in the sunny months.

What we need is a call for an end to winter football coming in June, July or August instead of the whole idea being swept aside at that time because the sun is blazing down from the sky and the pitches are like bowling greens.

I bring this up after hearing

'I'm now in favour of a mid-winter break'

about Scotland defender Iain Munro being injured in St Mirren's New Year's Day derby match with Morton when the Love Street surface was concrete hard and Iain twisted his knee and ankle in an unavoidable clash with Davie Hayes.

These kind of conditions are a defender's nightmare because once you go into a tackle you are committed and there is no way of changing your mind.

Players have to put all their con-

centration into balance, something that comes naturally in normal conditions and consequently muscles are strained, leaving them wide open to attack from strains and pulls.

I would like to call for a referendum from fans and players to decide once and for all whether the majority want a winter shut-down.

I would stand by the decision, but surely we should take a tip from the West Germans, who close down when winter is at its

worst... and remember that parts of that country are further South than Scotland.

It is time for a big decision on this one, time for a football revolution before it is too late. Football is already going down the river as far as spectators are concerned and I reckon we should do something before we drown.

And there may be another payoff to this one. Scotland's players never know what kind of conditions they are going to play on from one week to another and if these playing surfaces were consistent I think our players would be all the better for it.

That means a more successful international side... something not too many people would complain about I suspect.

Holidays

I know that in this column last year I said I was against playing football in the middle of the summer because I suggested that the full-time players would then be unable to take holidays with their families.

But I have changed my mind because I realise how serious the situation is and that sacrifices have to be made. We just cannot go on pumping the well dry if football collapses.

Meanwhile I travelled down to Liverpool on Boxing Day to see Kenny Dalglish and his colleagues take on Manchester United.

I must say I thought it was a disappointing match but then maybe I expected too much. After all it was a top of the table clash with so much at stake.

Kenny was well marked, but that is something that Dave Johnson must be loving, for he is being given plenty of space in which to make his name... and he is taking his chance well.

Liverpool won the game 2-0, through goals from Alan Hansen and Dave Johnson. I can't see anyone catching them in the title race in England now.

See you in two weeks...

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

NOBBY

IT'S FARICAL TRYING TO PLAY FOOTBALL IN THIS STUFF



YOU'RE TELLING ME... HAS HE JUST SCORED OR SOMETHING?



BETTER THAN THAT BOYS!



I'M JUST ABOUT TO BE SUBSTITUTED!





TOMMY CATON
Manchester City

SHOOT!



Old Firm action from Glasgow.
Rangers' Ally Dawson (left) and Tommy
Burns of Celtic tussle for possession.

Polish star Deyna unhappy at City



NEWS

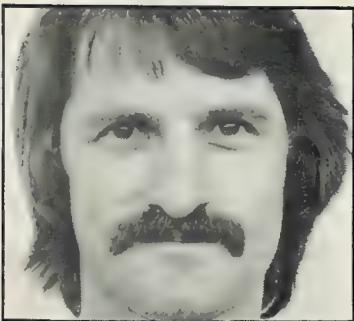
Compiled by
BILL DAY

DESK

SPONSORSHIP of football clubs does not have to be confined to the local wealthy patrons or international companies who have vested interests in advertising through our most successful clubs.

Harry Haslam, manager of Sheffield United, clarifies the position: "There is nothing to stop a benefactor from the other side of the world from helping any of the clubs. If someone wants to come in with a fabulous offer for the use of an advertising board, who or what is going to stop him?"

Behind that simple remark could lie the salvation of some of our clubs.



DAVE Serella (above), a free transfer signing from Nottingham Forest in 1975, is emerging as a key player in Walsall's push for promotion.

The experienced central defender is not heavily built but this proves no disadvantage because he often outjumps his opponents to the high crosses.

In a ten game spell Walsall only conceded seven goals and one of the main reasons was the contribution from Serella.

Promotion prospects? Serella said: "Most of the top teams have yet to play at Walsall so we have an ideal opportunity of going up — if we can continue picking up points away from home."

MONCUR SNAPS-UP POLICEMAN

CARLISLE have signed police sergeant Keith Houghton, a member of the famous Blyth Spartans team who reached the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup two years ago.

Since then, he has been the target of several clubs, including Chelsea and Peterborough, but has always turned them down to pursue his police career.

Now, Carlisle manager Bobby Moncur has finally persuaded him to change his mind.

Houghton, 25, who plays in midfield, is the third member of the Blyth Cup team to move into League football, following Alan Shoulder and Steve Carney at Newcastle.

SHOPPING AT DARLINGTON

DARLINGTON may be fighting to stay above the Fourth Division's re-election zone, but it doesn't keep the clubs away from the Feethams ground.

The scouts are turning up to admire the string of promising young players that Billy Elliott has used in a bid to revive the success-starved club.

He's already had inquiries about winger Alan Walsh and expects others to follow about newcomers Kevin Smith, Donald Smith and John Stalker.

"At a club like ours, it's obvious that everybody has a price," says Elliott. "But the future of Darlington lies with these players and I'll fight to keep them."

KAZIMIERZ Deyna, Manchester City's Polish international midfield player, admits that he regrets joining the First Division club.

"I'm not happy in English football," says Deyna, who has been relegated to City's reserve team for much of the season.

But he claims his visit to England is an experience he would not have declined.

"It has been a positive experience. I have gained first-hand knowledge of a style of football that is vastly different from Polish soccer. As a professional footballer, I must also admit that my standard of living is a good deal higher in England than it was back in Poland.

"But I realise that my favourite climate, my favourite atmosphere and my favourite lifestyle are of the country of my birth."

He claims he has adapted well to English football even though he has been "in and out" of the first team.

"I've got no complaints about that," says Poland's 32-year-old World Cup star. "The manager is in charge."

Deyna hopes to play in the United States when his contract at City expires in 1981.

RIMMER WANTS ENGLAND RECALL

JIMMY Rimmer has not given up hope of playing again for England. The 30-year-old Aston Villa goalkeeper has been outstanding for the Midlands side over the past two seasons.

The former Arsenal and Manchester United goalkeeper said: "I see no reason why I shouldn't play for my country.

"I'm still in very good shape and over the past 12 months I've lost a stone in weight to keep myself as sharp as possible.

"It is reckoned that a goalkeeper reaches his peak at 30 and in my case I believe this to be true."

'Our refs great' McGovern

NOTTINGHAM Forest captain John McGovern believes that British referees are the best in the world.

Indeed, he claims that while referees officiating Forest's games this season have been beyond reproach, Forest's players have been off-form.

"I have been delighted with the way officials have performed. Our match at Everton was a good example. The referee, Mr. P. Willis (from Durham), was outstanding.

"He came into the dressing-room before the match and explained that he would try to avoid trouble because of the state of the icy pitch. He kept control well and I was delighted with his handling of the game.

"Everybody knocks referees — nobody ever did like the guys dressed in black. The criticism is unfair."





ARGENTINE STRUGGLES

ONE Argentine struggling to make an impact in English football is Pedro Verde, of Third Division Sheffield United.

Verde joined United last summer from Hercules of Alicante, Spain. After a few first team games he was dropped and had to learn to play the English way in the reserves.

A problem for Verde was that United have two other foreigners: Alex Sabella and Dutchman Len de Goey, both established in the League side.

Verde was progressing well in the Central League when he damaged knee ligaments in a game just before Christmas.

WEBB A BOSS?

DAVID Webb, Derby County's veteran defender, hopes to become a manager when he retires after 15 years in the game.

Always a realist, Webb admits he is nothing more than a 'stop-gap' at Derby, although many would argue with that assessment of his contribution this season.

"I want to stay in the game," he says. "I believe I have something to offer in the managerial field, and that I am near a crossroads."

"One day the time will be right to move down and try my hand at it." Derby's assistant-manager John Newman recognises Webb as a "supreme" example of a footballer with the right application and approach.

"All the things I see in his approach to football are the things we need badly at Derby. Of course we are looking for skills and ability, but we don't half admire the professional attitude. David has it in abundance."

Webb played for Orient, Southampton, Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers before moving to the Baseball Ground.

McCreery's 'too' good

GLENTORAN boss Ronnie McFall reckons teenage inside-forward Ron McCreery will become an even better player than his Irish international brother David.

"The boy has immense skill and unlimited potential, and though I'd hate to lose him, he may be on his way to the English League. He is too good for the Irish League," says McFall.

BORO HONOUR FANS

MIDDLEBROUGH'S manager John Neal and John Craggs (left) lead fellow players as pall-bearers at the funeral of a couple who were killed when a wall collapsed at Ayresome Park.

Norman Roxby, 51, and his wife, Irene, both keen Middlesbrough supporters, died in the accident.

LIFE could hardly be better for Tony Greasham. 'Paddy' has had success with Luton Town this season and has enjoyed a good run in the Eire team. All he needs to do now is pass his driving test!

CRYSTAL Palace goalkeeper John Burridge always carries a zipper bag containing seven or eight different types of gloves.

"That way I am sure to have a pair to suit any conditions," he says.

Goalkeeping gloves can cost £25 a pair.

Jimmy Rimmer, of Aston Villa, also goes to work with several pairs.

DEMPSEY'S DAY

NEXT Monday (February 11th), John Dempsey, former Fulham, Chelsea and Republic of Ireland defender, has a testimonial at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea play an All-star XI. Liam Brady, Pat Jennings, George Best, Bobby Moore, Jimmy Greaves, Geoff Hurst and the one-time Portuguese star Eusebio are expected to play. Kick-off is 8pm. Dempsey, now with Philadelphia Fury, played for Chelsea during their glory years of the early 70's.

WITH Manchester United out of the F.A. Cup, the chances of them visiting Dublin this season have increased. United have a long-standing promise to play Home Farm and Dave Sexton has told the Dublin amateurs they are top priority on their list.

DUNNE QUILTS

PAT Dunne, the only goalkeeper player-manager in the League of Ireland, has resigned his post at Thurles Town. Dunne, whose career took him to Shamrock Rovers, Manchester United, Plymouth Argyle and back to Rovers, felt that he had achieved all that he could for the Tipperary club, who have money problems.

GENEROUS RAMS

DERBY County's players are the first professional footballers in Britain to sign cash deductions out of their wage packets to help finance orphaned and disabled children in Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

They are giving £1 a week. Young apprentices on the roll at the Baseball Ground are contributing 10p. Derby's gesture boosts Barnardo's coffers by more than £1,000 a year.

IAN Stewart, 33, Brechin City's manager for the past year, has taken over the manager's chair vacated by Albert Henderson who has parted from Arbroath with the distinction of being Britain's longest-serving manager for 18 years. Stewart, a civil servant, will be part-time at Gayfield.

FACTastic

WREXHAM'S Dixie McNeil and Bournemouth's Ted MacDougall have seven Football League hat-tricks to their credit during their illustrious careers. Yet Middlesbrough's George Camsell actually hit eight hat-tricks in one season back in 1926-27!

New Lives for Old Stars

Redfern Froggatt



WHEN Redfern Froggatt ended his playing days with Sheffield Wednesday in 1962 the Football League presented him with a statuette to mark completion of 20 years loyal service as a player with one club.

There are few statuettes of that kind around. They honoured special careers. Redfern joined Wednesday in 1942 and by 1962 he could reflect on 433 matches, 140 goals and four England caps.

His father, Frank, was centre-half for the club in the 20's and his cousin Jack, also a Sheffield lad, found fame with Portsmouth — twice they played together in the same England team. His son plays for Worksop.

Commentaries

Now a representative for an international fuel-oil firm, Redfern — his cultured inside-left displays still remembered by many — sits in the South Stand at Hillsborough broadcasting match commentaries to hospitals.

Following the local derby match with neighbours Sheffield United on Boxing Day, the former skipper of the The Owls picked out the Wednesday v. United game on the 5th January, 1952, as one of the specials. It had to be — 65,384 people turned up for the Second Division return fixture.

He admits a lot of today's tactical football disappoints him. "I still love the game but a lot of it is spoilt for spectators.

"But Wednesday are starting to look good again," he says. "Players such as Terry Curran and Rodger Wylde are personalities, the kind of players to bring the excitement and crowds back to the game."

LIVERPOOL'S TITLE

IT'S Liverpool for the First Division Championship if statistical trends in recent years are taken as a pointer to the destiny of the title this season.

For in most seasons, the club topping the First Division table at the start of a New Year goes on to win the trophy four months later.

Leeds United almost threw away a nine point lead at the turn of the year before winning the title in 1973-74 — and Derby County became an exception to the rule when they crept up from ninth position on January 1st the following season to sneak the title.



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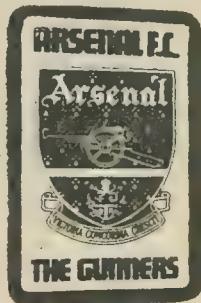
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A glance at the chart over the last half-dozen seasons shows that this feat of Derby's is pretty rare.

In every other season, the New Year "Champs" were also the *real* Champions at the end of the season.

And that's much the way it usually goes.

So... if your team has got off to a poorish start this season... it's not the end of the world.

Derby proved that. Ninth at the beginning of January; still as low as eighth at the beginning of March; fifth at the beginning of April — and then Champions by the season's end.

But statistics show it's a major help to get off to a good "first-half".

For one thing, solid points in the bag are far more substantial than mere hopes for the future. For another, it's a big psychological boost to morale, and, for a third, it

puts all the pressure on rivals to try and catch the leaders up.

But Derby at least proved one thing. Whatever the odds... never give up.

Nonetheless, those odds are usually pretty formidable — and it's rare to find Champions who haven't been very handily placed around the top three at the New Year stage.

The modern First Division is so taut and tense that, barring an abnormal sudden loss of form or massive injury problems, leaders usually take quite a bit of shifting from their lofty peak.

Even if comparatively rare since the War, though, there can be exceptions to the general rule.

And it's there that the never-give-up-hope adage for trailing teams really comes into its own.

Back in 1949-50, for instance, Liverpool got off to a cracking start and waltzed through their first 19

Here we show the top three clubs in the First Division at the end of each of the past six seasons; where they stood in the League table on January 1st; and the actual top three on that day.

	Leaders at end of season (with position on Jan 1st)	Leaders on Jan 1st
1973-74	Leeds (1st) Liverpool (2nd) Derby (9th)	Leeds Liverpool Burnley
1974-75	Derby (9th) Liverpool (2nd) Ipswich (1st)	Ipswich Liverpool Everton
1975-76	Liverpool (1st) Q.P.R. (5th)	Liverpool Manchester Utd
1976-77	Manchester Utd (2nd) Liverpool (1st) Manchester City (3rd)	Leeds Liverpool Ipswich
1977-78	Ipswich (2nd) Forest (1st) Liverpool (3rd)	Manchester City Forest Everton
1978-79	Everton (2nd) Liverpool (1st) Forest (5th)	Liverpool Liverpool Everton
1979-80	West Bromwich (3rd)	West Bromwich Liverpool Manchester Utd

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor after guiding Forest to the Championship in 1978.



games unbeaten — then a new record start to a First Division season until Leeds beat it a few years ago — right up to their first defeat in mid-December.

Yet they could finish no higher than eighth, five points behind Champions Portsmouth who had steadily come up from behind.

But Liverpool's record since then is second-to-none. In the last seven seasons they have occupied a top-two placing in each final table.

They are also always to be found in contention when the New Year comes around.

And it's that turn of the year that is invariably a critical time for Championship-chasing teams.

Not only is it roughly the halfway point of the League season, but complications of both Cup-ties and likely bad-weather pitches — not to mention a possible backlog

of postponed games — lie immediately ahead.

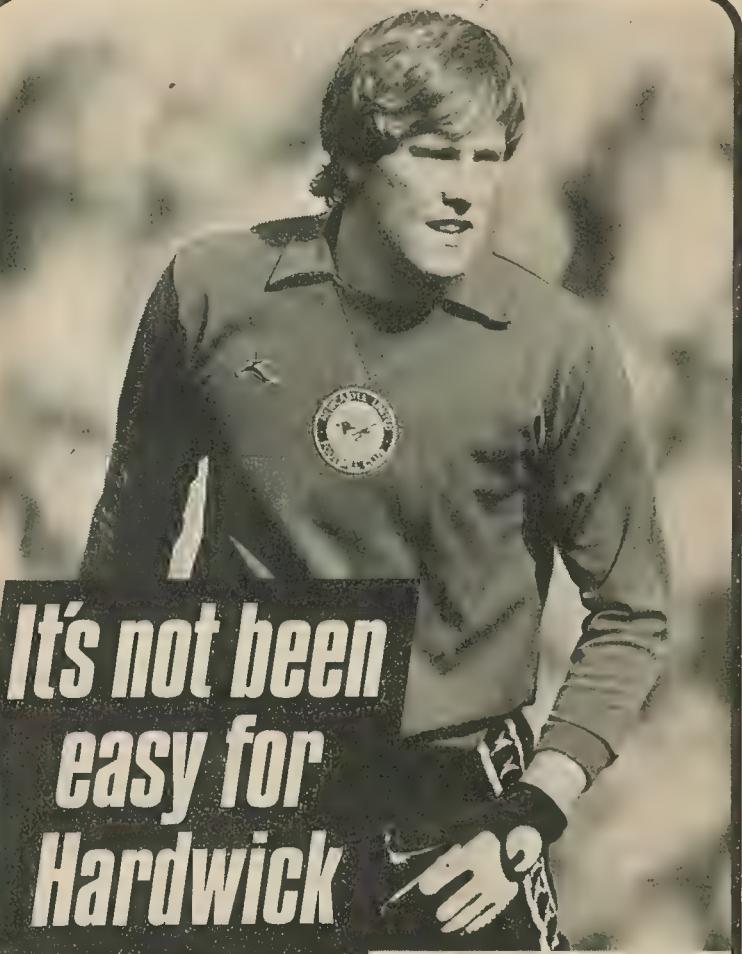
Which means it's very comforting for a club to find itself nicely settled in the driving-seat at this juncture.

And, summed-up, the moral is this. A team needs to get off to a profitable points-piling pre-New Year run if it possibly can.

But, if it can't, never give up. In rising from ninth to Champions from New Year onwards those few seasons ago, Derby — admittedly helped by being driven-on by an inspirational character named Clough! — proved just that.

This season Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest were in tenth place on New Year's Day. It will be a tremendous achievement if Clough can mastermind another late-run, but with Liverpool in charge, it will take all of his magic to pull it off.





It's not been easy for Hardwick

GOALKEEPER Steve Hardwick is the unsung hero of Newcastle United's promotion push.

While famous names like Peter Withe have been making headlines, the former Chesterfield 'keeper has been getting on with his job with a quiet efficiency.

And he's been doing it so well that only a handful of goalkeepers in the country have conceded fewer goals.

Hardwick has also been notch-ing up a string of clean sheets, particularly at St James' Park — and every one earns a private word of thanks to Chesterfield manager Arthur Cox.

Unfashionable

For the 23-year-old United 'keeper says Cox played a major part in moulding him into the player he is today, just one of a long line of the fine goalkeepers to come from the unfashionable Third Division club.

"I don't think anybody can manufacture 'keepers, it's something that comes naturally," says Hardwick. "But Arthur Cox polished my raw edges."

"He always took a tremendous interest in goalkeepers and would devote the first half an hour of many training sessions to putting us through our paces."

The most famous of that long line of goalkeepers produced at Chesterfield is Gordon Banks — and he's the player Hardwick tries to model himself on.

Like Banks, he gets satisfaction from narrowing down angles and generally cutting out the danger before it arrives. For Hardwick, the

spectacular diving saves are the last resort.

That might go some way to explaining why the fervent Newcastle supporters — or at least a section of them — still have doubts about Hardwick.

Despite his fine record this season, Steve knows some of them have still to be fully convinced about his ability. "It used to bother me, but not anymore," he says.

"I can point to our defensive record and that shows I'm doing okay. But whenever a goal goes in the instant reaction of some fans is to blame the goalkeeper. That's something all 'keepers have to live with."

The former England amateur international has never had an easy ride since he was signed by Gordon Lee for £80,000 three years ago.

He had played only 44 games for Chesterfield when Lee spotted him, but Hardwick never got the chance to play for the manager who bought him. Bad weather kept the keeper on the sidelines until after Lee had moved on to Everton in 1977.

Hardwick then struggled to break into the first team because of the form of Mike Mahoney, who is now in America. And, when he eventually made it, Steve had the toughest possible debut — against Liverpool at Anfield.

The turning point was a season he spent in American football with Detroit Express. It gave him new confidence and he established himself in the Newcastle side when he returned to England.

Apart from a spell last season when he was dropped in favour of Kevin Carr, Hardwick's been there ever since.

YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1



2



3



4

A 'keeper is fouled on the goal-line between the posts. You award a free-kick. From where may it be taken (a) where the foul was committed or (b) any part of the half of the goal-area in which the offence occurred?



5

Play has been extended in order to allow a penalty kick to be taken. The goalkeeper half saves the ball but it rolls past him over the line into the goal. Should you allow the goal?



Answers

1. A direct free-kick (a). 2. Send him off (c). 3. Yes, in the Football League we have to watch very closely the subsitute is not running up and down the touchline to warm up before coming on. As this offence occurred (b). 5. Yes, part of the opposition and themselves off. 6. Any goal put the ball into the goal-area in which the foul was committed or (b) any part of the half of the goal-area in which the offence occurred?

PHOTO CASEBOOK

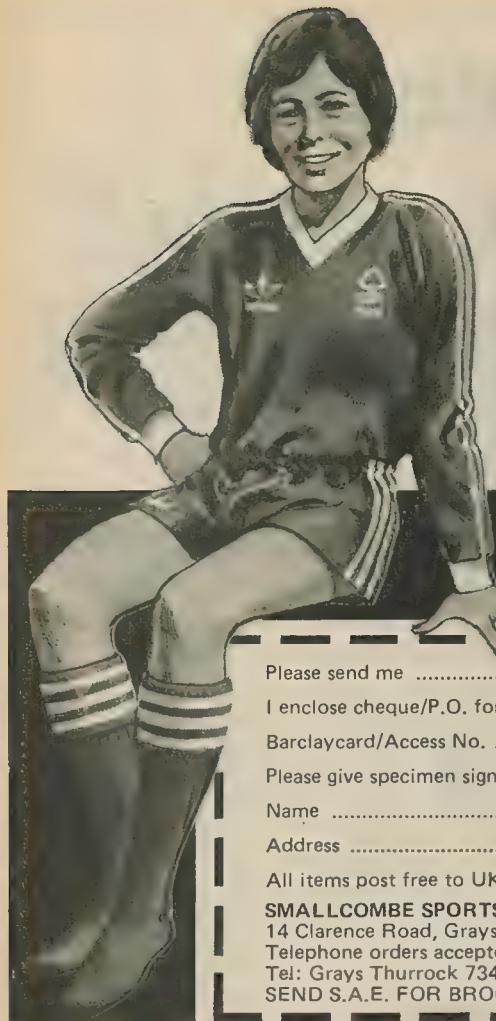
Possibly the saddest news of the season is Manchester United's announcement that Jimmy Greenhoff has been forced to retire because of injury. SHOOT looks back over the career of a player whom experts acclaimed the best striker never to win a full England cap.

Tribute to Jimmy Greenhoff



Greenhoff started his career with Leeds (top, scoring against Chelsea). After 89 League games, plus six as substitute, and 19 goals, he moved to Birmingham (above, left). After a short spell at St. Andrews, Stoke City made an offer and he was on his way to the Potteries. He helped them to League Cup Final success in 1972 (above, number eight), and the Watney Cup (left). His proudest moment was when he scored the winner for Manchester United against Liverpool in 1977. His last major game for the Old Trafford Reds was in last season's F.A. Cup Final (bottom). Alas for Jimmy, Arsenal won 3-2.





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SOCCER MONTHLY

● **The February issue of Soccer Monthly is not to be missed.**

● **Who are England's 'Shadow Men'?**

● **What impact did the Manchester United fans make on Dave Sexton?**

● **Why has Phil Boyer emerged a more dangerous striker on his own?**

● **Where will Kevin Keegan continue his career?**

● **Who is Liam Brady's successor at Highbury?**

● **What does the future hold in store for Derby County?**

● **To whom is Kenny Burns indebted, and why?**

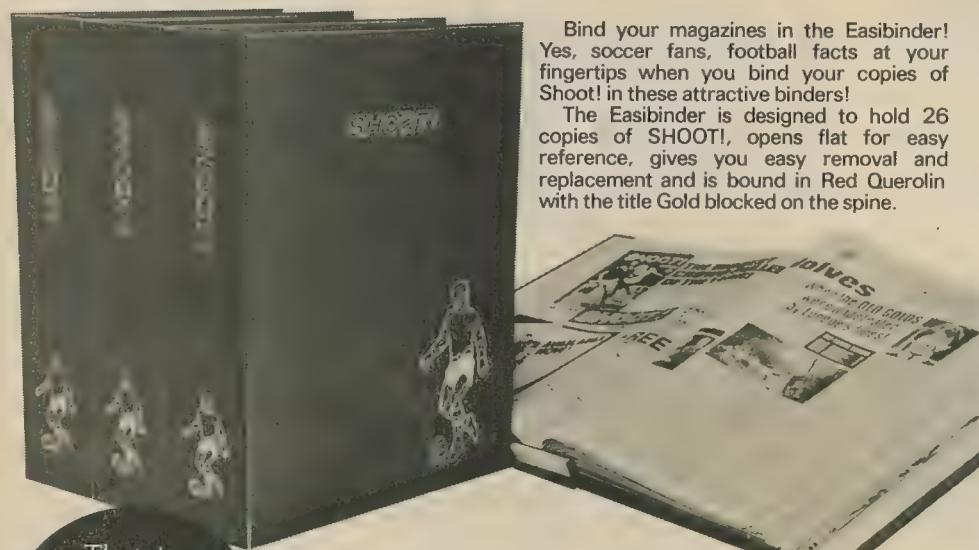
● **What are the secrets of Anfield? Kenny Dalglish reveals a few.**

● **What happened when Pele and Cesar Menotti met for a 'Champion' chat?**

● **Polish football is in trouble. Why?**

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CRYSTAL Palace are receiving the kind of attention generally reserved for those who can claim to have "made it".

It is the price of success after joining the elite of British football in the First Division.

They have been labelled "The Team of the 80's", an extravagant title bestowed on them before Christmas when their talented young side occupied third place in the First Division behind Liverpool and Manchester United.

By January they had slipped to mid-table and the same people who had showered the plaudits began to sharpen their knives.

Inevitably, criticism of the team's performances mounted, becoming more sour by the Saturday. Pitches became heavier and the clever 'touch' football they had played on crisp autumn afternoons and evenings needed modification on the ice and muddy surfaces they have faced in recent weeks.

to slip back into the Second Division. If a spirit level was applied to their League performances, the bubble would probably rest on the centre come the end of the season.

It is no more, nor less, than Venables anticipated. The Palace manager is happy simply for his team to be mixing it with the best.

It will not worry Venables a jot if Palace win nothing this season. His youngsters are serving in the most famous domestic soccer academy in the world.

He must have gleaned enormous satisfaction from Palace's 1-0 victory over Wolves at Selhurst Park last month. John Barnwell's team were much the better side in the first-half, and for a large part of the second-half, yet Palace clinched both points.

If a club can play badly, with a clutch of its best players missing injured, and win, it can never be underestimated.

Mike Flanagan scored the



Venables has been a 'Dutch uncle' during Sansom's problem time.

CRYSTAL PALACE of varieties

They have found the transition difficult to achieve and injuries to key players also combined to destroy the team's rhythm. Gerry Francis, returning rapidly to his England best before the turn of the year, Kenny Sansom, Mike Flanagan and Peter Nicholas, were all sidelined at the same time.

Then came the poison. Sansom was said to be unhappy at Selhurst Park, encouraging rumours of a major transfer. Arsenal, the club his family have always supported, were said to be favourites for the England left-back's signature.

Terry Venables bit his tongue until even his patience was tested to the limits. "For sale, rubbish," he snapped. "Kenny's had a few personal problems which we are sorting out in our way. He's staying here."

The normally ebullient Palace manager was clearly affected by mounting criticism. His Press conferences after matches became more protracted. "A funny sort of game, Terry," remarked one reporter. "What's funny about it?" said Venables tersely.

After Palace's home defeat by Middlesbrough he slipped into the Press room to claim with a wink and a smile: "The bubble's burst." Any reporter contemplating making that point put down his pen. Venables' smile had taken the sting out of Palace's second successive League defeat.

Somewhere between the euphoria before Christmas and the sewerage fired at the South London club afterwards lay a fairer assessment of Palace's performances.

They are not going to win the Championship, nor are they likely



winning goal in that match, his first for three months after returning from a troublesome hamstring injury. He suffers an injury likely to re-occur at any time. "I never know when it's going to go," groans the England 'B' striker.

Palace's shortage of goals and a lack of craft in midfield whenever Francis was out of the team contributed largely to their problems. Steve Kember brings aggression to midfield when he replaces Francis but he does not see the openings the former England skipper finds.

Goals have been in short supply yet Venables chose to place David Swindlehurst on the transfer list, entrusting Welsh international Ian Walsh with the task of breaching defences alongside Flanagan.

Sansom's injury clearly affected the team's performances more



Vince Hilaire

than any other factor. His thrilling surges up the left touchline caused headaches for many defences but once Terry Fenwick, and then Jim Cannon, replaced him, Palace's attacking ploy was blunted.

Palace's reserve strength was tested to the limits by the injury problems, but out of adversity came some hope for the future. Terry Boyle was introduced to the centre of the defence at Billy Gilbert's shoulder with Cannon switching to the number three shirt.

Another find — for Boyle gave Wolves' Andy Gray one of the most uncomfortable Saturdays of his season at Wolves.

Magic

Vince Hilaire's blossoming talents have added some magic to Palace's midfield. He provides the perfect foil for Francis' more measured control.

Venables says Hilaire's crosses from the wings have improved and if he maintains progress he could be destined to win an England cap.

It surprised few when Palace went out of the F.A. Cup to Swansea after two stirring matches at Swansea and Selhurst and a third encounter at Cardiff.

Terry Venables believes that Palace's supporters are among the best in Britain and have done as much as anyone to help the club overcome their problems.

"The fans who spur on Liverpool at Anfield are often quoted as being the best in the world. I would assess the Selhurst Park enthusiasts on the same basis because they have stuck by the club through thick and thin."

Venables' guiding influence; the flair of a talented bunch of young footballers allied to the experience of Francis, Flanagan, Burridge and Cannon; and loyal support should carry Palace satisfactorily through the first season of their return to the First Division.

CRYSTAL



BACK ROW (left to right): John Burridge, Jim Cannon, Paul Hinshelwood, Terry Fenwick, Jerry Murphy, Gerry Francis, Mike Flanagan.

FRONT ROW: Dave Swindlehurst, Steve Kember, Ian Walsh, Peter Nicholas, Billy Gilbert, Vince Hilaire. With the Second Division Championship trophy.

PALACE



FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"Then I went to a football match and I didn't get thrown out"

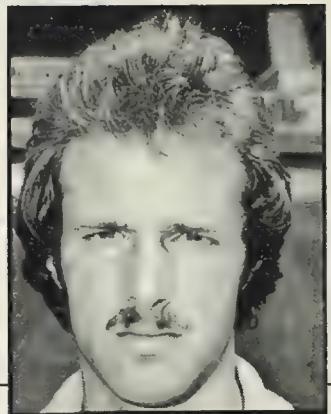


"Seen this joke in 'Football Funnies'? The number eight scores a goal and faints"



"He set about us with his rattle, kicked a linesman and then blew a raspberry at the ref"

"The manager of our local club has sent his forward-line in for tests"



This week Paul Dyson, Coventry's match-winner against Liverpool recently, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"As a matter of fact he's got two caps — one on each knee"



"There's no point in knocking our supporters, boss. We haven't got any"



After two-and-a-half years at Rotherham, Dave Watson signed for Sunderland in December, 1970, for £100,000. Manager Alan Brown was looking for a man to solve their goalscorer problems, and the adaptable Watson fitted the bill.

Two seasons in the Second Division failed to realise The Rokerites' ambitions of a return to the First, and in December, 1972, Brown was sacked.

Billy Elliott was appointed caretaker manager, and his first priority was to move Watson back to centre-half.

"I was top scorer in my second season at Sunderland with 13 goals," Dave said. "But I never enjoyed playing as a striker, and fortunately have been at my strongest position in the centre of defence ever since."

Within weeks of Watson's positional change, the Sunderland board had appointed a man who will always have a special place in the hearts of the Roker Park fans — Bob Stokoe.

It was Stokoe who took Sunderland to one of the most dramatic and popular F.A. Cup Final victories in recent years. It was 1973, and for Dave Watson it was when his career really took off.

"Our F.A. Cup success that year really put the spotlight on Sunderland, and helped me gain national prominence. Without that victory I doubt if I would ever have achieved my present status," Watson continued.

That momentous Cup run started with a Third Round tie against Watson's first club, Notts County. Reading, Manchester City and Luton were all accounted for, with Dave scoring four crucial goals to help Sunderland to the Semi-Finals, and a meeting with mighty Arsenal.

Arsenal had been in the previous two Finals, and were strong favourites to make it a hat-trick of Wembley appearances.

"Our game at Hillsborough was an incredible experience. We completely outplayed them, and roared on by the fantastic Sunderland supporters we won 2-0.

"At the end of the game Bob Stokoe had to go on a lap of honour or the fans would have

The DAVE WATSON Story PART TWO

stayed there all night chanting his name. The players just sat in the dressing-rooms, overwhelmed by the prospect of playing at Wembley.

"I had only been there twice before, both times as a spectator. Once was to see a schoolboy's international, the other for the 1968 F.A. Cup Final. Now it was my turn."

Sunderland's opponents on that memorable day were Don Revie's Leeds United, the side that had dominated English soccer for nearly a decade.

"Nobody at Sunderland was afraid of Leeds. We were not expected to do anything but lose, so we had no inhibitions.

'Nervous'

"I was excited, but never overawed. I get much more nervous before an England game at Wembley now than I was at any stage before that particular game.

"The whole thing was just like a dream, from walking out of the tunnel until the final whistle. Ian Porterfield's winning goal and Jim Montgomery's unbelievable save from Peter Lorimer were just the highlights of the greatest moment in my soccer career."

For the next few months the name of Second Division Sunderland was on everybody's lips, but a disappointing series of League results meant a gradual loss of interest in the fortunes of the one-time heroes.

Only Dave Watson remained in the public spotlight, thanks to his selection for the England team against Portugal in April, 1974.

It was Sir Alf Ramsey's last game in charge of the international

The victorious Sunderland team after their win over Leeds in the 1973 F.A. Cup Final. Watson (second left) proudly holds the trophy.



Wembley glory... England fame... record transfer... then...

'THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF MY LIFE'

side. "I knew I had to have a good game that day, because at the time newcomers weren't given a second chance," said Dave.

"I was more nervous before that game than I had ever been. I was in for Roy McFarland, who was injured. We drew 0-0, and I thought I had quite a good debut.

"But I have always been a pessimist, and when Alf Ramsey left I thought that was the end of my international career. Fortunately caretaker manager Joe Mercer selected me for the summer tour of Eastern Europe in 1974, and I have been a regular in the side ever since, even through the chop and change days of Don Revie."

But if all was going well for Dave Watson at international level, at club level things were far from satisfactory.

"I had waited for two years after our Cup Final success for promotion, and by the summer of 1975 I decided to ask Bob Stokoe for a transfer. I was nearly 29 and had still to play in the First Division. The time was right for a move."

A host of clubs were interested in Britain's top centre-half, but Manchester City were the most appealing in Dave's eyes. In July, 1975, he was transferred to Maine Road for £275,000, then a record fee for a defender.

"Apart from the last few months of last season, I had four fantastic years with City. We had a great team, and I am sure that if Liverpool had not been in such dominating form throughout the late 70's we would have been the team of the decade."



Newcastle's Malcolm Macdonald is left sprawling as Watson comes away with the ball for Manchester City in the 1976 League Cup Final. City won 2-1.

"I had an F.A. Cup winners' medal, and won the League Cup with City in 1976. I am satisfied with what I have achieved, and my only regret is that we didn't win the League in 1977."

But in January, 1979, Malcolm Allison returned to Maine Road. Watson is convinced that it was this sudden development which has been responsible for City's uncertain future.

"If Malcolm Allison had not returned to City, I would have finished my career there. But he arrived with the obvious intention of completely rebuilding the team, and I wanted no part of it.

"He insisted on everything being done his way, and would not listen to anybody else's opinion. The whole team was unsettled, and it was clear he did not like me, so at the end of last season I had to get away.

"I could have gone to a number of League clubs, but decided on a move to Werder Bremen in the West German Bundesliga.

"People think it was Kevin Keegan who influenced my decision, but although I had talks with him about life in West Germany, it was my great respect for City chairman Peter Swales which made up my mind.

"He is the best chairman in the business, and was terribly disappointed when I asked for a move. He didn't want me to go, and I owed him a hell of a lot for all his help while I was with the club.

"Peter would have been bitterly disappointed if I had joined another League club, and Werder Bremen seemed the ideal solution.

"Looking back on my time there, that decision was the biggest mistake of my life."

**PART THREE
NEXT WEEK:
THE WEST GERMAN
DISASTER**



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, December 15

(Continued)

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (0) 2	(McLeish, Hamilton)
ST. MIRREN (0) 0	6,000
Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, McMaster (Rougvie), McLeish, Garner, Miller, Strachan, Archibald, Hamilton (McGhee), Jarvie, Hewitt.	
St. Mirren: Thomson; Young, Abercrombie, Richardson (Torrance), Fulton, Copland, Bone (Beckett), Stark, Somner, McDougall, Weir.	
CELTIC (2) 5	(McAdam 2, McDonald, Lennox, Sullivan)
PARTICK (0) 1	(Park) 19,000
Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, McGrain, Aitken, McDonald, McAdam, Provan (Conroy), Sullivan, McCluskey, MacLeod, Lennox.	
Partick: Rough; Mackie, Whittaker, Anderson, Campbell, Jardine, Doyle, Melrose, O'Hara, McGregor (Wilson), Park.	

DUNDEE (1) 3	(Mackie, Ferguson, Pirie)
KILMARNOCK (1) 1	(Glennie o.g.) 6,016
Dundee: Donaldson; McGeachie, Schaeffer, Mackie, Glennie, McLaren, Ferguson (Fletcher), Sinclair, Pirie, Shirra, Murphy.	
Kilmarnock: McCulloch; Welsh, Robertson, Clark, Clarke, Armstrong, Houston, Maxwell, Gibson (Doherty), Mauchien, Cairney (Street).	

MORTON (0) 2	(Ritchie, Tolmie) 9,000
HIBS (0) 0	
Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holme (McLaren), Anderson, McLaughlin, Orr, Brown, Miller, Hutchison (Scott), Tolmie, Ritchie.	
Hibs: McArthur, Brazil, Duncan, Rae, Paterson, McNamara, Callaghan, MacLeod, Hutchison (Higgins), Campbell, Rodier.	

RANGERS (1) 2	(Jackson, Johnstone) 18,000
DUNDEE UTD. (1) 1	(Dodds)
Rangers: Young, Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth (T.), Jackson, Stevens, McLean (Cooper), Russell, Johnstone, MacDonald (A), MacDonald (J) (Smith).	
Dundee Utd: McAlpine; Stark, Kopel, Fleming, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Murray, Dodds, Holt, Kirkwood (Milne).	

Scottish First

AIRDRIE (1) 1	(McVeigh)
STIRLING (0) 2	(Beaton, Armstrong) 3,000

AYR (0) 0	
MOTHERWELL (0) 0	4,080

CLYDE (0) 0	
ARBOATH (0) 2	(Kidd, Yule) 1,000

CLYDEBANK (0) 0	
BERWICK (0) 0	497

HEARTS (0) 0	
HAMILTON (0) 0	4,750

RAITH (0) 0	
DUMBARTON (1) 1	(Sharp) 1,100

ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 1	(Goldthorpe) 2,136
(Leonard, McNaughton, Muir)	

Scottish Second

E. FIFE (1) 2	(Wedderburn, Huskie)
ALLOA (1) 1	(McIntosh) 629

Scottish Cup

(First Round)

ANNAN ATHLETIC (1) 1	(Anderson, J.)
STRANRAER (1) 3	(Hay, Gibb, McCutcheon) 1,050

COWDENBEATH (1) 3	(Rolland pen., Marshall, Liddle)
ALBION (0) 1	(Brand) 742

E. STIRLING (0) 1	(Simpson)
BRECHIN (1) 1	(Campbell R.) 524

EDINBURGH SPARTANS (0) 1	(Costello)
FORFAR (1) 2	(Clark, Rae pen.) 200

Q. OF S. (1) 1	(McCann)
FALKIRK (0) 1	(Spence) 890

STENHOUSEMUIR (3) 4	(Hancock 3, Murray)
QUEEN'S PARK (0) 2	(Gillespie J., Irvine) 376

Irish League

CLIFTONVILLE (0) 2	(Holden, McCusker)
BALLYMENA UTD. (1) 1	(Jeff pen.)

Cliftonville:	Johnston; McGuigan, Largy, Flanagan, Quinn, McCurry, McCusker, Bell, Kingon, O'Connor, Holden.
Ballymena Utd:	White; Beattie, Fox, McCullough, Jackson, McCall, Mullan, Jess, Malone, Tully, Sloan.

DISTILLERY (1) 1	(McAuley)
BANGOR (2) 2	(Barrett, McLoughlin)
Distillery:	Moore; Ferris, McGreevy, Keatley, Greer, McAuley, Hawkins, Magee, Richardson, McGinn, Cowden.
Bangor:	Irwin; Feeney, McKimm, Lennox, Harrison, Cummings, McLoughlin, Radcliffe (Dickinson), Barrett, McCoubrey, Duddy.

GLENAVON (0) 0	
CRUSADERS (1) 1	(McAtee)
Glenavon:	Hayes; Davey, Quinn, Donnelly, Sheppard, McGuigan, Neill, McDonald, Armstrong, O'Kane, Smith (Hunter).
Crusaders:	McDonald, Strain, Gorman, Mulhall, Gillespie, McPolin, Kennedy, Currie, King, McAteer, Rice.

GLENTORAN (0) 1	(Walsh)
PORTADOWN (0) 0	
Glentoran:	Matthews; McCreery, Rab, Carson, Walsh, Porter, Gracey, Irvine, McCreery, Ron, Blackledge, Dickey, Jamison.
Portadown:	McCollum; Edgar, Donegan, Wilson, Kilburn, Cleary, Gordon, Gardiner, Alexander, Campbell, Smyth.

LARNE (0) 2	(Hardy, Graham)
LINFIELD (2) 3	(McKee, Dornan, McCurdy)
Linfield:	Coburn; Wilson (Graham), Cleland, McAuley, Garland, McManus, Hardy, Thompson, Dornan, Clarke, Higgins.
Linfield:	Dunlop, Fraser, Hayes, Jameson, Rafferty, Dornan, Garrett, McKee, McCurdy, Feeney, Anderson.
	Postponed: Ards v. Coleraine.

Sunday, December 16

League of Ireland

BOHEMIANS (1) 4	(Byrne, Lawless, Joyce, Whelan)
SHELBOURNE (1) 1	(McMahon)

Bohemians:	Davis; Gregg, Brady, Nolan, Burke, Whelan, Kelly, McCormack, Byrne (Lawless), Joyce, Cowhie (Fitzpatrick).
Shelbourne:	Delahunt; Martin, Dillon, McMahon, Moody, Boyle, Nugent, Donnelly (Carney), Delamere, Byrne, O'Neill (Cleary).

DROGHEDA UNITED (2) 2	(Martin, Freaney)
FINN HARPS (1) 3	(McLoughlin, Ferry, M., Logan)

Drogheda Utd:	Forrestal; Haughey, Cameron, Byrne, Ferguson, Freaney, Doran, Martin, Leech, Clarke, Carthy.
Finn Harps:	McDermott; Ferry (M), Monagle, McDowell, Sheridan, Duffy (Collins), Logan, McCool (Ferry, C.), McLoughlin, Minnock, McGroarty.

HOME FARM (0) 0	
LIMERICK UNITED (1) 1	(Kennedy)

Home Farm:	Finnerty; Williams, Breslin, Grady, Maher, Thomas (Cervi), Neville, McCluskey, Craig, King, O'Neill.
Limerick Utd:	Fitzpatrick; Ryan, Fitzgerald, O'Mahony, Storan (McDonnell), Morris (Matthews), Meaney, Walsh, Kennedy, Nolan, Duggan.

SLIGO ROVERS (0) 0	
DUNDALK (1) 1	(Devine)

Sligo Rovers:	Patterson; Fielding, O'Doherty (D), Fagan, Rutherford, Stenson, McLoughlin, Patton, Bradley, O'Doherty (G), Hulmes (Sheridan).
Dundalk:	Blackmore; McConville, Lawlor Martin, Keely, Dunning, Flanagan (Muckian), Byrne, Devine, Lawlor Mick, Crawley, Daly (McKenna).

WIMBLEDON (0) 0	
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0	10,850

Wimbledon:	Goddard; Briley, Jones, Galliers, Bowgett, Downes, Dziedulewicz, Parsons, Denby, Cork, Lewington,
Portsmouth:	Knight; Ellis, Viney, Brisley, Aizlewood, Davey, Garwood (Perrin), Laidlaw, Hemmerman, Bryant, Rogers.

Torquay:	Turner; Twitchin, Ritchie, Pethard, Bourne, Sermanni, Davies, Lawrence, Cooper, Smith, Murphy.
SWINDON (0) 0	

Swindon:	Allan; Lewis, Ford, McHale, Tucker Stroud, Miller, Kamara, Rowland, Mayes, Williams.

NORTHWICH v. WIGAN postponed.

(Second Round Replays)

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

YORK (0) 0
BURY (0) 2 (Hilton, Madden) 4,932
York: Neenan; Kay, Harrison, Ford, James, Clements, Randall, Lorimer, Byrne (Faulkner), McDonald, Wellings.
Bury: Forrest, Constantine, Kennedy, McIlwraith, Waddington, Whitehead, Mullen, Wilson, Madden, Hilton, Halford.

League Cup

(Quarter-Final, Second Replay)

GRIMSBY (0) 0 (at Derby)
WOLVES (0) 2 (Hibbitt pen., Richards) 16,475
Grimbsy: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigington, Crombie, Broly, Ford (Liddell), Drinkel, Mitchell, Cumming.
Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, McAlle, Hughes, Berry, Hibbit, Carr, Gray, Richards, Eves.

Second Division

Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Allen 2)
CHELSEA (1) 2 (Langley, Bumstead) 26,598
Q.P.R.: Woods; Shanks, Gillard, McCreary, Hazell, Wicks, Goddard, Roeder, Allen, Waddock, Burke (Busby).
Chelsea: Borota; Locke, Sparrow, Bumstead, Pates, Chivers, Britton, Filtry, Langley, Walker Harris.

Wednesday, December 19

European Championship

SCOTLAND (0) 1 (Robertson)
BELGIUM (3) 3 (Van den Bergh, Van der Elst 2) (at Hampden Park) 25,389
Scotland: Rough; Jardine, Burns, McQueen, McGrain, Bannon (Provan), Wark, Aitken, Johnstone, Dalglish, Robertson.
Belgium: Custers; Gerets, Meeuws, Millecamp (L), Martens, Cools, Van der Eycken, Van Moer (Plessers), Van der Elst, Van de Bergh, Ceulemans.

F.A. Cup

(Second Round)

CHESHAM (0) 1 (Woolfrey)
MERTHYR (1) 1 (Doherty pen.) 3,052
Chestam: Baguley; Griffiths, Smith, Horrastead, Dodd, Johnson (P), Jackett, Watt, Martell, Johnson (D), Woolfrey.
Mertyr: Payne; Petherbridge, Jones (P), Holvey, Rosser, Doherty, Morgan, Jones (D), Batt, Pratt, Elliott.

First Division

ASTON VILLA (1) 3 (Donovan, Little 2)
COVENTRY (0) 0 24,446
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Ormsby, McNaught, Bullivant, Bremner, Little, Donovan, Cowans, Shaw.
Coventry: Sealey; Roberts McDonald, Gooding, Holton, Gillespie, Hutchison, Wallace, Ferguson (Whitton), Blair, Hunt.

Scottish Cup

(First Round Replay)

BRECHIN (1) 1 (Patterson)
E. STIRLING (0) 1 (McCraig) a.e.t. 650

Friday, December 21

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Stapleton)
NORWICH (0) 1 (Bond) 18,869
Arsenal: Jennings; Devine, Nelson (McDermott), Talbot, O'Leary, Walford, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Hollins, Rix.
Norwich: Keelan; Bond, Downs, Ryan, Brown, Jones, Mendham, Taylor, Robson, Paddon, Peters.

BRISTOL C (0) 0
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Channon) 12,489
Bristol C: Shaw; Sweeney, Whitehead, Gow, Kenyon, Merrick, Fitzpatrick, Tainton, Royle, Ritchie, Mann (Mabbutt).
Southampton: Wells; Golac, Peach, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Ball, Boyer, Channon, Holmes, Heberd.

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Gates, Mariner, Muhran)
TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (McAllister) 18,852
Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhran, Mariner, Gates, Brazil.
Tottenham: Daines; Hughton, Miller, Yorath, McAllister, Perryman, Ardiles, Jones, Lee, Hoddle, Villa.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2) 3 (Armstrong, Criggs, Cochrane)
BOLTON (0) 1 (Morgan pen) 11,813
Middlesbrough: Platt; Criggs, Johnson, Hedley, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.
Bolton: McDonagh; Graham, Burke, Greaves, Allardyce, Walsh, Morgan, Whatmore, Gowlings, Cantello (Carter), Nicholson.

STOKE (0) 0
LEEDS (2) 2 (Connor, Harris) 16,878
Stoke: Jones; Evans, Johnson (P), Johnson (P.A.), (Busby), Dodd, Doyle, Heath, Richardson, O'Callaghan, Crooks, Randall.
Leeds: Lukic, Cherry, Stevenson, Hamson, Hart, Greenhoff, Gray, Hird, Connor, Curtis, Harris (Entwistle).

OLDHAM (1) 1 (Steel) ,
BIRMINGHAM (0) 6,652
Oldham: McDonnell; Wood, Holt, Kowenicki, Clements, Hurst, Valentine, Halom, Steel, Stainrod, Atkinson.
Birmingham: Wealands; Broadhurst, Dennis, Gemmill, Gallagher, Todd, Lynex, Worthington, Bertschin, Dillon, Johnston (Curfishley).

PRESTON (0) 1 (Elliott pen)
WATFORD (0) 2 (Patching, Rostron) 8,956
Preston: Tunks; Taylor, Wilson, Burns (McGee), Baxter, O'Riordan, Bell, Haslegrave, Elliott, Coleman, Bruce.
Watford: Steele; Henderson, Harrison, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Downes, Blissett, Mercer, Train, Rostron.

SUNDERLAND (1) 2 (Marangoni, Arnott)
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Maguire) 21,237
Sunderland: Turner; Whitworth, Bolton, Clarke, Elliott, Buckley, Arnott, Cummins, Brown (Rowell), Robson, Marangoni.
Shrewsbury: Mulhern; King, Larkin, Lindsay, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Chapman, Dungworth, Maguire.

SWANSEA (0) 0
ORIENT (1) 1 (Taylor) 10,342
Swansea: Letheran; Evans, Rushbury, Charles, Phillips, Mahoney, Giles, Attley (Stevenson), James, Loveridge, Callaghan.
Orient: Day; Fisher, Roffey, Taylor, Gray, Moores, Godfrey, Hughton, Mayo, Margernson, Coates.



Brian Little scores Aston Villa's third goal against Coventry.

WEST HAM (0) 3 (Stewart, Pearson, Neighbour)
CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Biley) 11,721
West Ham: Parkes; Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Allen, Pearson, Cross (Pike), Brooking, Neighbour.
Cambridge: Webster; Stringer, Christie (Turner), Calderwood, Fallon, O'Neill, Biley, Spriggs, Reilly, Gibbons, Murray.
FULHAM v BRISTOL R. postponed.

Second Division

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Burke)
WREXHAM (0) 0 6,129
Burnley: Stevenson; Arins, Brennan, Burke, Overton (V), Rodaway, James, Dobson, Hamilton, Young, Smith.
Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Kenworthy, Davis, Jones, Fox, Vinter, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Hill (Roberts).

LEICESTER (0) 0
CARDIFF (0) 0 12,877
Leicester: Wallington; Williams, Rose, Peake (Goodwin), May, O'Neill, Lineker, Henderson, Young, Kelly, Smith.
Cardiff: Grotter; Dwyer, Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Thomas, Lewis, Bishop, Stevens, Ronson, Hughes (Moore).

LUTON (2) 3 (Stein 2, Hatton)
CHARLTON (0) 0 7,277
Luton: Findley; Stephens, Donaghy, Greasham, Saxby, Price, Hill, West, Stein, Hatton, Moss.
Charlton: Wood; Hazel, Shaw, Tydeman, Berry, Madden, Powell, Jacobson (Robinson), Hales, Walker, Gritt.

Third Division

BARNESLEY (1) 2 (Clarke, Aylott)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Kellow) 8,567
Barnsley: Springett; Flavell, Collins, Glavin, Hunter, McCarthy, Banks, Clarke, Aylott, Graham, Pugh.
Blackpool: McAlister; Gardner, Pasley, McEwan, Ashurst, Harrison, Hockaday, Doyle, Spence (Thompson), Kellow, Weston.

BURY (1) 4 (Madden, Mullen, Halford, Hilton)
BRENTFORD (0) 2 (Fraser, Booker) 2,443
Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, McIlwraith, Whitehead, Waddington, Mullen, Wilson, Halford, Hilton, Madden.
Brentford: Bond; Shrub, Tucker (Graham), McNichol, Kruse, Fraser, Carlton, Fear, Booker, Salman, Phillips.
CARLISLE (0) 0
GRIMSBY (1) 2 (Kilmore, Moore K) 4,633
Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Collins, Mac-

Donald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Beardsley, Bannon, Hamilton, Staniforth.
Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigington, Crombie, Broly, Kilmore, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.

CHESTER (0) 3 (Rush, 2, Storton)
ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Finney) 2,727
Chester: Millington; Raynor, Walker, Storton, Cottam, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones, Rush, Phillips, Henderson.
Rotherham: Mountford; Forrest, Tiler, Rhodes, Stansiffe, Green, Finney, McEwan, Dawson, Fern, Nix.

EXETER (1) 3 (Roberts L., Dowman o.g., Pullar)
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Wright) 2,648
Exeter: Main; Mitchell, Hatch, Hore, Roberts (P), Roberts (L), Neville, Pearson (Bowker), Rogers (P), Delve, Pullar.
Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wigall, Dowman, Hodge (Evans), Wright, Dyer, Lee, Rowles.

HULL (0) 0
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Keeley) 3,720
Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, De Vries, Croft, Skipper, Hawker, Roberts, Moss, Edwards, Phillips, Norrie.
Blackburn: Arnold; Branagan, Parkes, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Crawford, Stonehouse, McKenzie, Metcalfe.

MANSFIELD (0) 0
PLYMOUTH (0) 0 3,000
Mansfield: Arnold; Thompson, Wood, Curtis, Bird, McClelland, Thomson, Taylor, Austin, Letham (Allen), Mann.
Plymouth: Crudginton; James, Harrison, Randall, Foster, Phillipson-Masters, Hodges, Cooper, Sims, Bason, Graves (Cook).

READING (0) 0
SHEFF. WED. (2) 2 (Curran, Mellor) 5,349
Reading: Death; Hetzke, White, Bowman, Kearny, Moreline, Earles, Joslyn (Williams), Kearns, Sanchez, Wanklyn.
Sheff. Wed.: Bolder; Blackhall, Williamson, Smith, Pickering, Hornsby, McCulloch, Johnson, Mellor, King, Curran.

SCHEFF. UTD. (1) 2 (Garner, Matthews)
SOUTHEND (0) 0 12,699
Sheff. Utd.: Richardson; Speight, Tibbott, Kenworthy, McPhail, Matthews, de Goey, Bourne, Buttlin, Garner, Sabella.
Southend: Cawston; Dudley, Yates, Stead, Cusack, Hadley, Morris, Otulakowski, Parker, Tuchy, Hull (Polycarpou).
GILLINGHAM v CHESTERFIELD, MILLWALL v SWINDON and OXFORD v WIMBLEDON postponed.

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 (Butler, McDougall)

NORTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Denyer 2) 2,335
Bournemouth: Allen; Cunningham, Ferns, Impey, Townsend, Chambers (Borthwick), Holder, MacDougall, Butler, Evanson, Miller.

Northampton: Poole; Farrington, Sandercock, Byatt, Waldeck, Sandy, Denyer, Williams, Bowen, Farmer, McCaffrey.

BRADFORD C. (1) 2 (McNiven, Staniforth)
HARTLEPOOL (0) 0 3,789
Bradford C: Smith; Podd, Watson, Bates, Baines, Cooper, Martinez, Dolan, Staniforth, McNiven, Hutchins.

Hartlepool: Burleigh; Sweeney, Carr, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Loadwick, Newton (Houchen), Herding, Hampton.

DONCASTER (0) 0
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Stalker) 3,949
Doncaster: Peacock; Russell, Snodin, Lister, Bradley, Dowd, Pugh, Nimmo, Flanagan, Lewis (Packer), Little.
Darlington: Owers; Natress, Cochrane, Ball, Craig, McLean, Charlton, Stalker, Taylor, Walsh.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO *Ask the Expert*

SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd.,
King's Reach Tower,
Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

Rings OK

I've noticed players wearing rings during games. Isn't this against the Laws?

JACK DIAMOND,
STRATHCLYDE

Not unless, in the opinion of the referee, they constitute a danger to other players — and, obviously, the vast majority of rings wouldn't do that.

In other words, Jack, if it's OK by the ref... you can even wear a DIAMOND ring!



Roger Hunt

Can you tell me how many goals Roger Hunt scored for Liverpool and England?

MICHAEL SHANNON,
IRE

For Liverpool, Michael, he scored 246 goals — a club record — in 402 League games. (After which, he rounded-off his distinguished career with 24 more goals in 76 League games for Bolton).

On the international front, Hunt (above) scored 18 goals in 34 full games for England. He earlier played in three Under-23 games, but without finding the net.

Leeds record

I know Leeds set up a new record in 1973-74 by going 29 League games, from the start of the season, without defeat. But who beat them in their 30th game?

RABI UDHALIKAR,
GREENFORD

It was Stoke, Rabi, on 23rd February, 1974. They beat Leeds 3-2.

The visitors took an early 2-0 lead with goals from Billy Bremner and Allan Clarke, but Mike Pejic and Alan Hudson pulled Stoke back to level-pegging by the interval.

Then, in the 67th minute, Denis Smith headed home the winning goal to put a stop to Leeds' winning ways.

Most points

Which clubs have gained the most points in a single season in each Division of the Football League?

ANDREW PARSONS,
DEAL

In the First, Andrew, those remarkable lads from Liverpool top the pops with 68 points in the 1978-79 season.

Spurs hold the Second Division record with 70 in 1919-20; and it's 70 again for Villa (1971-72) in the Third.

Record for the Fourth is 74 — by Lincoln in 1975-76.

For the old Third Division (South) it's 70 — shared by Forest (1950-51), and Bristol City (1954-55); and for the old Third Division (North) it's 72 by Doncaster (1946-47).

Busby Babes

I say Manchester United's last League game before the Munich air disaster was a 5-4 win over Arsenal at Highbury.

NIGEL SCULLEY,
LONDON, N.J.

And you'd be right, Nigel — the game taking place on 1st February 1958; just five days before United's brilliant young team, the "Busby Babes" was so cruelly decimated in the crash.

United's five goals in this ding-dong thriller came from Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton, Tommy Taylor (two), and Dennis Viollet; Arsenal (who'd been 0-3 down at half-time) spiritedly hitting back with four from Jimmy Bloomfield (two), David Herd, and Derek Tapscott.

SHORT PASSES

England won the World Cup on 30th July, 1966; Scotland, on 15th April, 1967, were the first nation to beat them after that.

(GRAHAM BURNETT, Carlisle)

Brighton (Southern League Champions) beat Aston Villa (Football League Champions) 1-0 to win the 1910 F.A. Charity Shield game.

(JOHN STROUD, Horsham)

Wrexham have won the Welsh F.A. Cup 21 times between 1878 and 1978.

(COLM O'CALLAGHAN, Eire)

When Spurs beat Bristol Rovers 9-0 on 22nd October, 1977, the goals came from Colin Lee (four), Peter Taylor, Ian Moores (three), and Glenn Hoddle.

(PAUL WINTER, Richmond)

Bobby Ferguson gained seven full caps in Scotland's goal in the 1965-66 and 1966-67 seasons; he was then a Kilmarnock player.

(KEITH JEWETT, Warwickshire)

Tranmere's record win is 13-4 v Oldham (Div. Three North, 26th December, 1935); their record defeat is by 1-9 v Spurs (F.A. Cup, 14th January, 1953).

(DAVID WILSON, Enfield)

United Kingdom readers receive £2 for every letter published.

Overseas readers win a special SHOOT T-shirt instead of money. When writing, readers should state their size: small, medium or large.

FRANCE

CONTROVERSIAL French left-winger Didier Six looks set to leave struggling Olympique Marseille. Six, who was a member of France's World Cup team, always seems to turn it on for his country, but rarely strikes top form for his club. Even so, Marseille have received offers from Washington and Houston and two West German clubs, including Borussia Dortmund.

FRANCE have approached U.E.F.A. for the right to stage the 1984 European Championship Finals.

Peru's

WHILE fans were still pondering over the defeat by Chile in the South American Cup, the Peruvian F.A. added to their frustration by asking the Peruvian manager, José Chiarella, current public enemy number one, to remain in charge of the national team.

Less than a week after playing Chile in Santiago, where a 0-0 draw put an end to Peru's Championship hopes, Chiarella and a heartless Peruvian team travelled to Mexico to play the home team in a friendly match. Peru lost 1-0 and Chiarella must have considered it safer not to return home. But he needn't have worried, for after Peru were eliminated by Chile, disappointment ended all fans' interest in international soccer, and the Mexican defeat went by almost unnoticed.

The League is also ignored, unless the top Lima teams are

HOLLAND

HOLLAND have only one friendly before the European Championship Finals. They played Spain in Vigo on January 23rd and will play France in March. Another, on April 24th, was cancelled because Dutch clubs refused to make their players available.

DOPE testing will come into effect at some games this year. The results will not be published, but will be used only to find whether there is any doping in Dutch football.

Little World Cup hits problems

THE Little World Cup tournament, with which Uruguay were hoping to commemorate the 50 years of their victory in the first World Cup (Montevideo, 1930) has very little chance of being held at all. England have said they are not coming (the idea was to get together all nations who have ever won the World Cup) and have been replaced by Holland.

It looks more and more unlikely that Brazil will participate, because the tournament will take place at a time when Brazilian players are on holiday, and now Italy are also threatening to pull out.

There is just one way Brazil will take part, and this if the opinion of João Havelange (right), president of F.I.F.A., prevails over that of his fellow countryman Giulite Coutinho, newly elected to the presidency of the Brazilian Football Association (C.B.F.). Havelange wants Brazil to take part, as a matter of prestige to himself, since he has thrown all the weight of F.I.F.A. behind the Mundialito. Giulite Coutinho doesn't, because one of the key points in his platform as a candidate to the presidency of the F.A. was a football calendar that would



respect the holidays of the players.

Havelange claims he helped Giulite Coutinho to be elected president of the F.A. and so now deserves a helping hand. The point that remains to be seen is whether Giulite really thinks he owes so much to his friend.

WEST GERMANY

AT the halfway stage in the Bundesliga, an average of 3.1 goals per game had been scored, the fewest since 1971. Attendances were down, too, to an average of 24,593.

JAPANESE winger Okudera of Cologne scored the 16,000th Bundesliga goal in his club's 2-1 win over Uerdingen.

ROLF Rüssmann of Schalke 04 scored the winning goal against Hamburger SV from the penalty-spot (following a foul by Kevin Keegan). Two minutes later there was an announcement that Rolf's wife had just given birth to a daughter, Laura.

COLOGNE tried to sign Czech forward Nehoda, but he preferred to stay at home "to continue my studies".

FORMER Austrian World Champion racing driver Niki Lauda recently went to



professional 'amateurs'

involved. Otherwise, attendances have dropped abysmally, even though the League Championship is in its final stages.

This complete lack of interest in soccer was unmoved even when the Peruvian F.A. announced that Peru would take part in the qualifying games for this year's Olympics.

On the other hand, fans were expecting the usual Peruvian F.A. blunder, which was bound to come, and they didn't have to wait for long.

There is a National Amateur Football Championship, held every year, of which the winner is promoted to the First Division, a totally professional League. The fact is that year after year, the winners of the Amateur Championship have been teams that include professional players and certainly cannot be considered amateur teams.

WORLD WIDE

compiled by
CHRIS DAVIES

SOUTH AMERICA

CARLOS Caszely, one of Chile's most popular players, has been in the Top Ten record charts with "Ode to the Fan".

FAMOUS Colombian club, Millonarios, have sold their right winger Willington Ortiz — rated one of the best Colombian players of all time. Millonarios had always maintained that Ortiz was irreplaceable, as he formed part of the club's history. But now they've been forced to accept a £175,000 offer from Deportivo Cali so that they can pay the other players' wages.

see his favourite West German side, Eintracht Frankfurt, play. Niki chartered a plane for himself and 44 friends (!). He owns the charter company.

WHEN Schalke 04 sacked coach Gyula Lorant it was the eighth time he'd been given the boot in the Bundesliga. The other clubs are Kaiserslautern (twice!), Bayern Munich, MSV Duisberg, Kickers Offenbach, Cologne and Eintracht Frankfurt.

KEVIN Keegan charges £3,000 for an autograph hour in West German stores: Tony Woodcock's fee is £1,500.

WEST German magazine *Kicker* says there are three world-class Germans in the Bundesliga: Hamburger SV full-back Manny Katz and the Bayern Munich pair Paul Breitner and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. *Kicker* also reckons there are two world-class foreigners in the German League... Kevin Keegan (of course) and the Korean forward of Eintracht Frankfurt Bum-Kun Tscha, known as Tscha-bum (left).

The Peruvian F.A.'s first move was to appoint Luis Roth, a young and promising manager, in charge of the pre-Olympic team. Roth nominated the team and to the surprise of everyone, included professional players.

The Peruvian F.A. turned a blind eye, accepted all the nominations and summoned the team together to begin training.

Friendly

For some unknown reason Roth fell out of favour with the F.A. and resigned even before the pre-Olympic team played their first game, a friendly against a local League side. Roth's successor is Luis Zacarias.

Zacarias is an expert in physical education, one of the best in the country. But his experience as a manager is very limited, in fact this

is only his second job in the hot seat.

Brave Luis Zacarias has taken the bull by the horns, and has promised the Press a successful pre-Olympic team. But the way things are going it is probable that it won't be for the next Olympics!

With just over a month left before the first qualifying game against Colombia, Zacarias announced his plans and the preparation of the pre-Olympic team was going to interfere with the League programme.

All of a sudden, teams such as Universitario and Sport Boys have announced that their "amateur" players are really professionals and are ineligible! Players from both teams who presumably retained their amateur status yet received wages, formed the base of Zacarias' team, so you can imagine how he is suffering now.



ITALY

WHEN Juventus beat AS Roma 2-0, Roberto Bettega played his 250th League game for Juve and scored their first goal.

AC Milan midfieler Capello was suspended for a month and fined almost £3,000 by the club after he attacked a sports writer who had criticised him.

LA Gazzetta dello Sport, the Italian newspaper, asked its readers to vote for the 'best Italian player over the past 35 years'. Gianni Rivera (left) was the winner, with Sandro Mazzola second.

ITALY used three different captains when they played Switzerland. Dino Zoff led the team on to the field, but he was substituted by Bordon and Causio took over as skipper. Then Causio was substituted and the third captain was Antonioni.

ITALIAN clubs are eyeing Brazilian players in anticipation of their borders being re-opened later this year. Italian journalist Andrea Contreras wrote: "British players don't want to play here; France has only two or three who are worthwhile; Denmark only one, and that leaves the Dutch. Where are you going to find 36 really good Dutch players? So our clubs will look to Brazil, where there are many excellent forwards. It's forwards we need, because we're always 'make' defenders."

A SECOND Italian fan has been killed this season. He was an AC Milan supporter who died away to Udinese when he fell 40 feet from the top tier of the stand at Udine.

VIOLENT DERBY

THE freak spell of cold weather in Spain may have had the fans shuffling around in sub-zero temperatures on the terraces, but one place where the temperature was at boiling point was the Sarría Stadium, where Espanyol took on Barcelona in the needle Barcelona derby.

The match started true to tradition with nine bad fouls in the opening five minutes. Then in the ninth minute Marañón put Espanyol ahead from a blatantly off-side position. Referee Sánchez Arminio promptly booked Barcelona's Asensi (right), Sánchez, Zúñiga and Rexach for protesting.

Three minutes later, Sánchez committed another nasty foul and was sent-off.

By the end of the first-half, no fewer than ten players had been shown yellow cards, and in injury time Marañón broke past Barcelona defender Miguel, only to be felled by a vicious elbow in the face. Miguel also received marching orders, and Barcelona played the whole second-half with nine men — and outplayed Espanyol!

Many times they were near to scoring, but it was the home team who snatched a second goal to win 2-0.

As usual, the Barcelona directors blamed the defeat entirely on the referee and announced that they'll be taking 'legal action'.



BELGIUM

ANDERLECHT have no less than NINE foreigners on their books, although only two can play. Dutchmen De Bree and Rensenbrink are, under Belgian rules, considered Belgians now, so is the Dane Nielsen. Holland star Huijs is being asked to take out Belgian nationality along with fellow countryman Dusbaba. The Brussels club have just signed Brylle (Denmark) and Szemanowski (Poland), although Koncilia (Austria) and Villalba (Paraguay) are expected to leave. Villalba to FC Porto of Portugal.

THE average attendance in Belgium so far this season has been 11,597.

THERE are more foreign players in Belgium than any other European country. The list reads like a U.N. survey: 32 Dutchmen, 13 Germans, ten Danes, five each from Poland and Yugoslavia, two each from Austria, Luxembourg, Sweden and Zaire; and one each from Paraguay, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, Haiti, Hungary, Wales, Scotland, England, Peru, Turkey, Brazil, Italy, Chile and Iceland.

AUSTRIA

THE Austrian borders will 'close' from July 20th, 1980, and no Austrian players will be allowed to leave before the 1982 World Cup. One man, perhaps surprisingly, not happy is national coach Karl Stotz. "Let them go," he says. "Our players learn a lot in foreign countries."

BRAZIL

BRAZIL'S 1970 and 1974 World Cup star, Jairzinho, now 35, is still playing. Following a spell with Nacional de Manaus (where he earned £1,200 a month) he has signed for Natal.

THE Colorado club of Brazil have been dogged by bad luck in the past year. Star player Valcentir was killed in a car crash; goalkeeper Paulo Roberto was in hospital with serious head injuries; a director died after a heart-attack during a game; the radio cabins at their ground caught fire; the wife of defender Queiros died. Colorado fans believe a priest should exorcise the club to get rid of the evil spirit hanging over it.

IBIS, a small club in the Pernambuco League, broke its duck and won after 75 games without victory. The directors were so happy that they awarded the players a £630 bonus and 50 days holiday over the Christmas period!

SÃO Paulo are bidding to host the 1988 Olympic Games.

SÃO Paulo FC have just broken the Brazilian transfer record by paying Guarany of Campinas £190,000 for midfielder Renato. Not content with that, São Paulo also signed Guarany coach Carlos Alberto Silva.

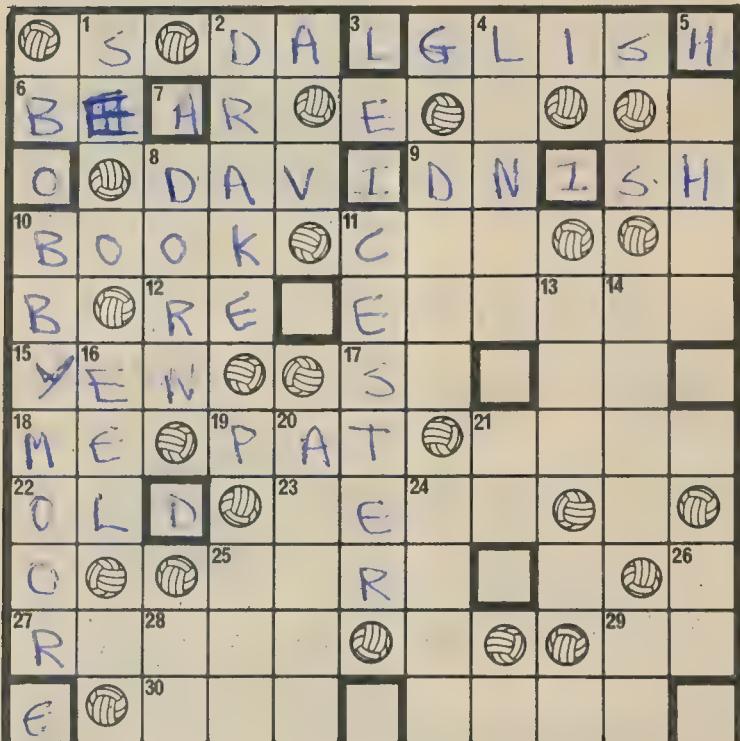
ARGENTINA

DIEGO Maradona has been chosen as Latin American Man of the Year. In the voting by 120 journalists, the Argentine schemer won easily from Victor Pacci (Paraguayan tennis star) and Cuban boxer Teófilo Stevenson.

A FAN died after a game in Córdoba when, following a pitch invasion, he was badly hurt and medical aid was too late reaching him.

THE 'friendly' preparation match between the Chilean national team and Argentine club Estudiantes had to be abandoned before the end with the players throwing punches in all directions. Estudiantes had two players, Rocca and Fortunato, sent-off, and went berserk when Chile took a 2-1 lead.

Go for the Double



ACROSS:-

- (2) Kenny —, Liverpool striker.
- (6) Graham --k-- (Southampton). Animal formed from the omissions.
- (8) Derby County defender. (5 & 4)
- (10) Tony —, Man. City general manager.
- (11) Willie ---r of Wolves.
- (12) Deep respect.
- (15) Gerry Swee--- (Bristol City), the omissions in reverse.
- (17) More important.
- (18) Paul -ill-r of Spurs.
- (19) — Rice, Arsenal full-back.
- (21) Slipped.
- (22) — Show Ground of Scunthorpe United.
- (23) It represents "no score", for instance.
- (25) Les — of Fulham.
- (27) Path taken.
- (29) Stuart --avon of Spurs.
- (30) Take the first and last of Shrewsbury; the start of Cambridge and part of Forest to give "trees".

DOWN:-

- DAR
OIN
- (1) Twente Enschede; Dutch League club.
 - (2) Ted —, famous player who scored seven goals in a match in 1935 for Arsenal against Aston Villa.
 - (3) — City, from Filbert Street.
 - (4) Mark —, Brighton midfielder.
 - (5) Trevor —, Southampton striker.
 - (6) Most-capped England player. (5 & 5)
 - (7) ---lingt-- (English Div. Four). Decorate from the missing letters.
 - (9) --ve -ob -rts, Welsh international defender.
 - (13) -e-- Whatmore, Bolton striker.
 - (14) --l-- Lee, Chelsea striker.
 - (16) St-ve Pow--l, Derby midfield player.
 - (20) A 1970 World Cup Stadium or Los Angeles player.
 - (24) Space to move, for example.
 - (25) Gre--- Road, home of Crewe.
 - (26) — Sealey, Coventry 'keeper.
 - (28) Paul Br--h of West Ham.
 - (29) --rwick Rangers, team from Sheffield Park.

**GO FOR SHOOT EVERY WEEK —
PLACE A REGULAR ORDER NOW!**

'NO MORE

THE day of the domestic soccer bargain seems to be over. Ray Clemence ... Steve Coppell ... just two top internationals who cost their current clubs 'peanuts' when arriving from lower Division clubs. Now, the smaller clubs, plus those in Scotland, are asking far more for their potential stars.

At the other end of the market, I agree with Andy Gray who said in his article the other week that his £1.5 million fee could stand for a long time, perhaps ever.

I cost Manchester United just over half what Andy cost Wolves. I'm not sure what conclusions to

draw from that! Really, though, it's a matter of circumstances. John Barnwell had received almost all of the sum he paid for Andy from Manchester City for Steve Daley, so the Scottish striker didn't 'cost' Wolves very much, in effect.

Alan Biley left Cambridge for Derby County last month for £300,000. That's a sign of the times. Cambridge have been determined to hold out for a realistic price rather than 'give away' their top asset.

West Ham paid Dundee United £400,000 for full-back Ray Stewart. I'd never heard of the lad at the



HOME BARGAINS'

time. Good luck to United, who forced The Hammers to pay what they thought Ray was worth. From what I hear, the player is doing well for the Londoners now.

The biggest bargains can now be found abroad. United have just paid Red Star Belgrade £300,000 for Nikki Jovanovic, who has played at a high level in the Yugoslav League for years, not to mention his European and international experience. Nikki can play anywhere in the back-four and a comparable British player would have cost us at last twice that amount.

Bobby Robson sold Brian Talbot



LEFT... "Steve Coppell cost Manchester United around £40,000 when he was signed from Tranmere."

RIGHT... "Dundee United got £400,000 for 'unknown' Ray Stewart when they sold him to West Ham."



to Arsenal for £450,000 and paid FC Twente £400,000 for Arnold Mühren and Frans Thijssen. Ossie Ardiles' fee was £350,000, so you can't blame managers for looking abroad for new recruits.

Malcolm Allison has said he'd like to see transfers banned for a season to sort the good coaches out from the bad ones. I can't go along with this. Manchester United, for instance, demand the best and if a top star becomes available and the manager feels he can do a job for us, the supporters will expect action.

Something must be done about

prices, however. Clubs have been paying for players with money they don't have. In time, I expect there will be a limit on fees, as there is in Europe. It's crazy that Arsenal will get only £500,000 if they sell Liam Brady to, say, a German club when they could ask three or four times that amount at home. On the other hand, it is obviously a help all round if there is uniformity.

One reason why I believe Andy Gray's record is safe is that the players who would break it aren't available. Those such as David O'Leary and Glenn Hoddle have signed new contracts with their clubs, while others who would smash the record, like Liam Brady, are going abroad.



"Frans Thijssen of Ipswich has been a bargain buy at £200,000 from FC Twente."

be laid there could be problems.

Coventry City's playing surface is tremendous. Their grass is still growing, by all accounts, thanks to a heating system which cost only £40,000 to install and costs £6,000 a year to run.

There is something wrong when two League Cup Semi-Finals are postponed, yet the same night a Central League game is played at Highfield Road.

I hate not playing on a Saturday. I'm used to a routine and it isn't the same without a match in the afternoon. When our game against Aston Villa was iced-off in January, I simply stayed in bed all morning, got up, washed and shaved, had something to eat and watched England beat Ireland at Twickenham. Our Rugby boys did well that day.

After last winter I'd have thought more clubs would have had pitch protection by now, but only half a dozen or so have anything. Hopefully, next season we shan't have any postponements at Old Trafford.

Certainly our training is never affected. At The Cliff, we have one outside pitch and one large indoor one with a cinder surface.

Announcement

One person who still trains with us is Jimmy Greenhoff, despite the sad announcement that he was forced to retire from football. Jimmy was getting pain when he turned quickly, so had to call it a day.

I can't think of a better uncapped player than Jimmy, nor a better one-touch player. His soccer brain was second to none, he was so sharp and played the first-time ball beautifully.

Jimmy is now assessing future opponents for us, although with his knowledge of football there will always be a job for him in the game.

This Saturday (February 9th) we face Wolves at Old Trafford, hoping to avenge our 1-3 defeat at Molineux. That was one of Andy Gray's first games for Wolves and he and John Richards caused us all sorts of trouble that afternoon.

We started well and took the lead, but after half an hour sat back and didn't maintain our momentum. We paid dearly for this and in the end Wolves were worthy winners.

The last thing we want is another postponement. We don't want anything to disturb our title challenge. People were beginning to think Liverpool were infallible, but their defeat at Coventry showed they can be beaten.

Join me again in a fortnight,



Defenders on the ball —
Coventry's Bobby
McDonald (left) and
Gerry Sweeney of Bristol
City.

KILMARNOCK have a history second to none for producing goalkeepers of top quality who have gone on to represent Scotland at the highest level.

Jimmy Brown, Sandy McLaughlin, Campbell Forsyth, Bobby Ferguson, Ally Hunter and Jim Stewart have all occupied the number one berth for their country in the past and now the Rugby Park club are confident they have another two contenders.

Current keeper Alan McCulloch has already impressed Jock Stein this season, and the other name to note is that of Hugh Wilson.

Let's start at the top with McCulloch. He has had to be patient at Rugby Park. Jim Stewart was the man in charge before his £110,000 transfer to Middlesbrough. McCulloch actually took over from Stewart for a lengthy period, but lost his form and allowed his rival to come back again.

"There's no way I would have sold Jim if I didn't have someone like Alan around," says manager Davie Sneddon. "The goalkeeping

McCulloch is one of the quiet men of soccer and says: "I'm enjoying life in the Premier Division. The pressure on you is relentless, and that's the way I like it."

"Being kept busy helps you keep your eye in. But it's equally important to keep your concentration at all times, especially when you have been inactive for a spell."

McCulloch's former Kilmarnock colleague Ally Hunter, who moved on to Celtic, Motherwell and St. Mirren before quitting the game altogether, used to give himself a match commentary to keep himself on his toes. The experienced Bobby Clark, of Aberdeen, sings to himself!

Whatever McCulloch's secret is, it certainly works! He has been one of the most consistent goalkeepers in Scotland this season.

McCulloch knows he must retain that form with a teenager such as Hugh Wilson challenging him from the reserves.

Wilson went with the Scottish

Why Killie's McCulloch daren't lose form

position is obviously vital and you can't take a risk with your keeper.

"You can have the team playing to your satisfaction out on the field, but it will all fall down if your keeper isn't up to it."

Ironically, it was McCulloch, and not Stewart, who nearly signed for Middlesbrough. At the time McCulloch was on loan to St. Mirren and he attracted the attention of the Ayresome Park club.

However, Middlesbrough went for the more experienced Stewart and Kilmarnock immediately recalled McCulloch from St Mirren.

Alan McCulloch producing the sort of save that has his manager Davie Sneddon in raptures.



Under-18 pool for the European Youth tournament in Monte Carlo recently and he was the only keeper in the tournament not to concede a goal.

Scotland played four games — against Italy, Yugoslavia, Sweden and Czechoslovakia — and won three and drew the other. Sadly, they missed the opportunity to reach the Final on goal difference.

"It would have been just marvellous to have won that tournament," says Wilson. "I believe we were the best team out there, but it wasn't to be."

McCulloch and Wilson hope to follow in the steps of all the other Kilmarnock keepers and walk the international tightrope. Don't bet against them.

St. Mirren's precious gems

ST. MIRREN manager Jim Clunie is always pressing the claims of his young players for international recognition.

In his relatively short spell in charge at Love Street he has watched happily as former players Frank McGarvey (Liverpool) and Tony Fitzpatrick (Bristol City) have been called into Jock Stein's plans along with Iain Munro, Billy Thomson, Billy Stark and Billy Abercromby.

However, Clunie wasted no time in calling the latest Love Street international recruits — Peter Weir and Mark Fulton — into his office.

"I told them both to keep their feet on the ground and ignore stories they might hear from Anglo clubs," admits Clunie.

'Learning'

"They have still to establish themselves with St. Mirren and both are still learning the game."

The rapid promotion of Weir and Fulton is completely justified on their displays this season. They are players of top quality and already English clubs have had them watched. But St. Mirren are in no hurry to part with their talented youngsters.

Fulton, in particular, has been impressive. It seems St. Mirren can do nothing wrong when it comes to unearthing centre-halves of great potential.

Remember, £500,000 Gordon McQueen began his career at Love Street before moving to Leeds United and then on to Manchester United. He is still the highest-priced centre-half in Britain.

Bobby Reid was tipped to join Liverpool a couple of seasons ago before he was cruelly hit by injury. Into his place stepped Andy Dunlop and he, too, earned rave notices. He may be overshadowed by fellow central defender Fulton at the moment, but his time will surely come.

Clunie should know something about coaching defenders because he was a centre-half, too, during his playing days.

"I want all my players to contribute something to the team," says Clunie. "I want them all to be involved in playing football. I don't want moves to break down

with players constantly heaving the ball out of play.

"Our players are told to bring the ball forward and link with the midfield. We want to find a rhythm and a balance here."

Clunie has got the team working well at the moment, although they obviously suffered a reaction at the start of the season when they missed the influence of Fitzpatrick and McGarvey.

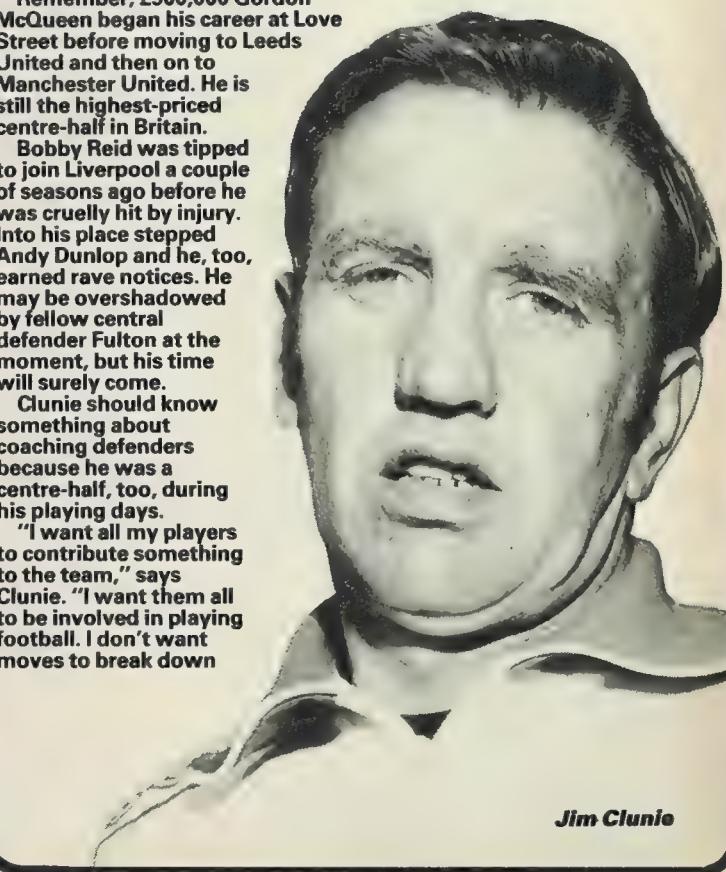
The pairing of Doug Somner and Frank McDougall didn't look like paying off as the £250,000 new boys tried to get used to each other's style of play, but there have been signs in recent matches that a good partnership is forming.

Clunie has also handed over the captaincy to the much-travelled Jimmy Bone, whose list of former clubs is like a soccer Who's Who, and that move, too, has proved to be a winner.

Bone is now playing some of the best football of his career and he is thriving on the responsibility of being captain.

St. Mirren are eager to win a trophy in the near future and they are going about it in the right fashion.

Theirs is a realistic approach. Manager Jim Clunie is making sure his present-day stars keep their heads out of the clouds. Just ask youngsters like Peter Weir and Mark Fulton.



Jim Clunie

ERIC Gates, the smallest striker in the country, has made a big impact this season to help his side overcome a poor start and climb the First Division.

The diminutive Ipswich front-runner celebrated his longest run in the first team in eight years at Portman Road with a series of impressive performances — and a number of valuable goals.

It all started with the opening goal in Town's home match against Southampton, which later earned him the "Goal of the Month" award from BBC's "Match of the Day".

In Town's next home match Gates grabbed his first senior hat-trick in the 4-0 victory over Manchester City and went home with the match ball as a souvenir.

The stocky, 5'6" forward was on target again in the 3-1 home win over Tottenham Hotspur and the 3-3 away draw with big rivals

to stay in the First Division."

Ipswich boss Bobby Robson declined the offer, however, and instead of trying to buy any of the big-money players he had watched in an effort to improve his team's record, he gave Gates another chance.

It is very much a new feeling for the player to be a first team regular, scoring goals and making headlines. As he admits: "I was always in and out of the side, replacing injured players rather than being in on merit. It was all very frustrating because I believed I was good enough."

"That was why I walked out on Ipswich last season and returned home to the North East. I felt I had to attract attention to my situation because regular reserve football was doing nothing for my career.

"I had scored against Q.P.R. but was left out for the next two games. I felt I was getting a raw

deal and at that time there seemed to be no real future for me at Ipswich. In all honesty I hoped they would let me go."

When it became clear, however, that Bobby Robson did not intend to part with his temperamental striker Gates returned to Ipswich to once again fight for his place.

It was a fight he won and now he is setting his sights even higher — on England honours. Along with his good friend Paul Cooper he is the only Ipswich first team squad member not to have won any kind of international cap.

"It gets lonely down at Portman Road when all the lads go off to play for their countries," he laughs, "and I'd love a chance to show what I can do at that level.

"Maybe a game for the 'B' side for starters. I think I'm as good as some players who have been given

the same chance. Sometimes I wonder if my lack of height is against me but I'd prefer to be measured on my record."

"Obviously, I'm never going to score a lot of goals with my head. But I have very good balance which enables me to get out of tight situations and either into a scoring position for myself or lay on a chance for one of my team-mates."

"I suppose you could say I'm greedy in front of goal. I try my luck with a lot of shots from the edge of the box but I reckon I take my chances quite well, and the fact that I've scored a few goals is a big help."

Gates, aged 24, is on a four-year contract at Ipswich, but says he would only be happy to see it out if he was in the first team. "If it got to the stage where I faded out of the picture again I would not be content just to play in the reserves. I would rather move on and try my luck elsewhere."

Gates opens up

Norwich City as Ipswich put together an impressive unbeaten run to steadily climb the First Division table.

But there was a time when it looked as if Gates, instead of banging in the goals for Ipswich, would be on his way to Brighton. Although Brighton's Alan Mullery had never seen Eric play he was prepared to sign him in exchange for the highly-rated Peter Ward.

Mullery was acting on the advice of his players who had seen Gates in action in a pre-season tournament in Rotterdam while Brighton were also in Holland for a couple of warm-up games.

Gates admits he was interested in the move. "I wanted regular first team football, and at that time wasn't getting it at Ipswich," he said. "I thought a change of club would suit me and I was also keen



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DAVID NAREY

signs for life

DUNDEE United's Scottish international David Narey has withdrawn his transfer request and signed a long term contract which should keep him at Tannadice for the remainder of his football career.

It is understood that his new contract is lucrative and will take the 23-year-old player into his 30's with the club. It has been suggested that it will provide pension rights as well.

When an obviously delighted manager Jim McLean gave out the news he said that the contract was similar to that made earlier in the season with star defender Paul Hegarty.

Both players are regarded as the backbone of United's team, and the club directors are to be congratulated on their latest efforts to keep their top players.

When Narey requested a transfer a few months ago, he claimed it was made for obvious reasons. He was looking ahead to the future, and felt that security in later years lay in obtaining a move to playing with a top club in England.

"He is an ambitious player who has seen England as a bigger challenge," said United manager Jim McLean. "But since Dave went on

the transfer list, no offer has been received.

"I would like to emphasise however, that though he has signed a new long-term contract, it doesn't mean he will never move."

"If a decent offer came along that we could not refuse, and the player was keen to go, we would not stand in his way."

Secure

"Regardless of that, however, there is no doubt that his footballing career is secure, and the club also is happy."

David Narey is delighted with his new agreement. "I was worried about my future when I asked for a transfer," he said. "The new contract assures that, and I was very happy to accept it."

This move to keep their star players — plus recent expenditure in the region of £300,000 for Willie Pettigrew and Eamonn Bannon —

can be regarded as part of the management's plans to make Dundee United the top team in Scotland.

"If you want to be the best," says manager McLean, "then you must have the best players available playing for you."

It is as simple as that, and great news for the ever increasing numbers of Dundee United supporters who also visualise a successful future for the club as well as the players.

United have also revealed that plans have been made to cover most of the terracing at the long North stretch at Tannadice. It will be a big job, and an expensive one which will run into six figures.

So, not only are Dundee United looking after the future of their players — they are looking after the comfort of their fans as well.

The game in Scotland can only benefit from such forward-planning, and so can Dundee United.



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Special report on the Third and Fourth Divisions

TRYING to predict which three teams gain promotion from the Third Division this season has taken on something of a precarious nature in recent weeks.

The inconsistencies of the leading clubs means that any of the top ten still stands a very good chance of ultimate success, and it is apparent that any team which string together a consistent set of results could make a clear break from the pack.

SHEFFIELD UNITED, attempting to ensure their first season in the lower half of the League is also their last, have led the table for the greater part. Yet Harry Haslam's team has suddenly been hit by an inexplicable attack of the jitters, and the promotion which at one stage looked a virtual certainty is now very much in the balance.

If we had to choose one team for promotion, then it would have to be Bobby Smith's **SWINDON**.

Success against Arsenal in the Quarter-Finals of the League Cup

Victorious Swindon after their surprise success in the League Cup against First-Division Arsenal.



THE ROBINS ARE BOBBING ALONG

was followed by a fine away win in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup at Luton, and a home draw with Spurs. Now The Robins are flying high.

With games in hand on all the other promotion contenders, the £80,000 Smith paid Watford for striker Alan Mayes was an outstanding bargain. At the start of the New Year, Mayes was the Football League's leading marksman with 21 goals.

GRIMSBY, who also did the Third Division proud with their League Cup exploits, have prospered under manager George Kerr, taking over where John Newman left off, and they too must be a good bet for promotion.

Perhaps the surprise packet among the leading bunch are **COLCHESTER**. Manager Bobby Roberts has obviously done a marvellous job, but they are making life difficult for themselves by dropping too many points at home at the moment.

MILLWALL are perhaps lacking a little too much in experience for promotion this season, but undoubtedly have the makings of

a very fine team for the future. Kevin O'Callaghan has recently joined Ipswich, and George Petchey's big problem now is hanging on to his talented teenagers.

CHESTERFIELD and **SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY** are both handily placed, while **CHESTER**, conquerors of North-East giants Newcastle in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, and Brentford won't give up the promotion battle without a fight either.

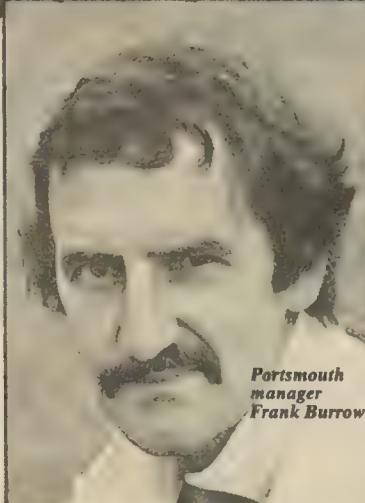
BRENTFORD were not sorry to see the back of 1979 after the way it finished for them.

They had a magnificent start to the season, then hit a bleak spell that sent them sliding down the table. Despite that the Third Division is so open they are still in contention.

At the other end **WIMBLEDON** and **SOUTHEND** are facing a bitter fight to avoid dropping back into the Fourth Division after only one year.

We expected Southend to do very well — for they certainly have the players and the set-up worthy of higher things.

But after a sizzling start — in



Portsmouth manager Frank Burrows

which they knocked First Division Bolton out of the League Cup — they slumped disastrously ... even suffering the embarrassment of defeat against non-League Harlow in the F.A. Cup.

HULL CITY were another who hardly covered themselves in glory during the first half of the season.

But now they are 'under new management' perhaps their long suffering fans can hope for better things at last.

And if the recently appointed Welsh managerial team of Mike Smith, Cyril Lee and Bobby Brown — brought in at considerable expense — can't get Hull moving upwards then nobody can.

Managers making their way in the game — most still new to the business — are setting the pace in the Fourth Division.

Among them is Frank Burrows — former player and coach at Swindon — who has got the famous Pompey chimes ringing out again at the Fratton Park home of **PORTSMOUTH**.

This once proud club — who 30 years ago won the First Division title twice in succession — show signs of being on the march again, and the fans are responding in a big way.

Another slumbering giant showing signs of awakening are **HUDDERSFIELD** — who went one better than Portsmouth by winning the First Division three times in a row.

Huddersfield have known nothing but anonymity for far too long. And that's a situation young boss Mick Buxton is determined to do something about.

So is Alan Buckley, who carries the additional burden of being a player, as well as manager, of **WALSALL**.

And tucked in nicely are **TORQUAY**. They have been guided there by Mike Green — whose quiet and efficient way of going about things brought an offer to take over at Bristol Rovers.

The only really established manager in the top six is Len Ashurst, who is earning praise for the fine team he has put together at **NEWPORT**.

At the bottom all seems lost for **CREWE**. They are so far adrift an application for re-election seems inevitable. And **ROCHDALE** have a lot to do if they are to avoid having to get out the begging bowl and plead for their League status to be preserved.

SAVIOUR SHILTON

MY SOCCER
WORLD
**Viv
Anderson**

John Robertson, Kenny Dalglish, Peter Shilton, Viv Anderson, Brian Clough, Bob Paisley, Martin O'Neill, Ray Clemence, Graeme Souness, Gary Birles.



THE CLIMAX to Forest's first-leg League Cup Semi-Final against Liverpool was real 'Roy of the Rovers' stuff.

It was 0-0 with a minute to go when Ray Clemence pulled down Garry Birles as he chased a Martin O'Neill pass.

Referee Ron Challis had no option but to point to the penalty-spot.

Immediately he was surrounded by angry Liverpool players ... the crowd was in uproar ... Brian Clough and Bob Paisley were on their feet.

Amid the confusion there was one calm man ... our penalty-taker, John Robertson standing on the edge of the area waiting for the noise and arguments to die down.

Unlike 'Roy of the Rovers', though, John's last-minute penalty didn't result in total victory for Forest. We've still got it all to do in the second-leg at Anfield next Tuesday (February 12th).

You've got to admire John for the way he took his kick. I would not have relished the thought of having to take a penalty under that pressure.

Perhaps Forest were fortunate to have won the first-leg, considering the way Liverpool played at the City Ground.

But for the magnificent Peter Shil-

ton, John's spot-kick might well have been meaningless.

He was beaten only twice, when a shot from Graeme Souness in the first-half rebounded off an upright and Kenny Dalglish's header scraped an upright in the second.

Peter's performance was even more remarkable when you know that he injured an arm early on in the game and played on in some considerable pain. What courage!

In the players' lounge after the match, his great England pal Ray Clemence, still seething over the penalty decision, told Peter he would have to be at his best again at Anfield if Forest are to survive the

second-leg.

Well, Ray, he's perfectly capable of doing just that, so watch out . . . the Forest hoodoo could continue.

This League Cup Semi-Final tie is by no means over and I'm not underestimating the enormity of the task that lies ahead of Forest.

Liverpool, with their well-organised defence and powerful attack, led superbly by the ever improving Dave Johnson, are obviously capable of beating any team at Anfield, but we'll fight them all the way.

They won't forget we knocked them out of the European Cup last season, after hanging on to a two goal lead at Anfield. Or that Forest beat them in the '78 League Cup Final.

That is the one trophy Liverpool have yet to win so that will act as an extra incentive next week.

Unfortunately, Forest will be without Stan Bowles and Charlie George, both of whom are League Cup-tied.

At the time of writing Charlie was still on his month's trial. I hope by the time you read this he will be a permanent Forest player.

Brian Clough had no doubts as to Charlie's skills, but he was worried about his fitness.

As you know, since moving from Derby County to Southampton over

entrance to the City Ground with his boots in his hand.

I asked Charlie why he left Southampton and he said he felt he couldn't pass up the opportunity to join the European Champions.

If there were other reasons Charlie kept them to himself.

He is the third so-called "problem" player signed by Brian Clough.

Critics thought he was mad to take on Kenny Burns . . . they believed Stan Bowles was too hot to handle.

Charlie George has also been the subject of controversy in the past.

Yet Kenny has been "tamed" and Stan has been a model professional since his transfer from Q.P.R.

Charlie had a reputation for being difficult to talk to . . . arrogant and ill-mannered. He's ill-judged. He's been very friendly to me and the rest of the Forest lads.

Problem players . . . temperamental . . . maybe they are but then so are most super talented people.

One move I was surprised didn't take place was Mick Ferguson's transfer to Forest.

Even our Northern Ireland midfielder Martin O'Neill, who was all set for The Sky Blues in part exchange for the big striker didn't know what was happening.

Mystery

It's still a mystery to me why the deal didn't go through, perhaps that's why the boss moved in so quickly for Charlie George.

He's been responsible for saving many careers. Players such as Larry Lloyd, Ian Bowyer, John O'Hare, John Robertson and John McGovern, all seemed destined for the scrapheap before Brian Clough threw them a lifeline and the opportunity not only to rebuild their careers, but go on to win honours.

But the boss doesn't restrict his special talents to footballers. He recently helped to save the life of a widow from Nottingham.

A Forest fan, she suffers from a spinal disease and was refusing to eat. Apparently the lady was wasting away.

The hospital authorities decided to contact Mr. Clough for his help.

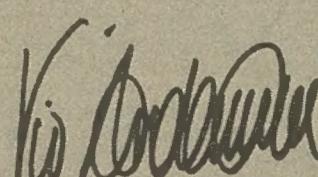
He readily agreed and spoke to the lady on the telephone and persuaded her to end her fast.

I expect she'll be watching for Forest's result this Saturday (February 9th) when we take on Bristol City at home.

They're a funny side, struggling at the moment, but one capable of beating the best on their day.

We drew 1-1 in our match at Ashton Gate earlier in the season, but I fully expect to take both points from this encounter at the City Ground.

Cheers for now . . .



a year ago, Charlie has been troubled by a bad knee injury.

He played so few games for Saints that some fans at The Dell started to wear badges proclaiming "I saw Charlie George play".

That was a little unkind to one of the most talented and versatile players in the country.

He's got so much vision I reckon he could see through walls — defensive ones I mean.

Although Brian Clough has always admired Charlie, and I believe tried to sign him from Derby, his move to Forest came right out of the blue.

The first I knew of it was when I saw Charlie walk through the main

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All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Matt Johnstone of Motherwell, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

UNFAIR TO ALLY

★ YOUR recent article on Ally MacLeod was misleading. For example, when MacLeod took over at Motherwell they were firmly anchored at the foot of the Premier Division with little chance of survival. It was grossly unfair of you to relate his ambitions of winning the Premier Division to last season. Ally would be the first to admit it will take at least two or three years to build a team worthy of Motherwell's tradition.

You then questioned the wisdom of MacLeod's spending, although as I write promotion is not impossible this season.

The statement made by the former Motherwell player could easily refer to the time when Roger Hynd was manager, when transfer deals happened almost every other week. By the time MacLeod took over I would imagine there was a very disillusioned bunch of players at Fir Park.

Given time, MacLeod will give 'Well fans a team which will help him realise his ambition of winning the Premier Division.

The Concorde has taken off. How high will it go?

● Ally had a good record with Aberdeen, but his spell with Scotland did his image no good. If he can take Motherwell to the very top he will be classed as a great manager. Otherwise . . .

Same gate

LAST September, Bristol City entertained Wolves and the crowd at Ashton Gate was 18,835. At the return game at Molineux there were . . . 18,835 fans.

JOHN BIRD,
WOLVERHAMPTON

● The odds on that must be at least 18,835-1!

Hooligans

A POLICEMAN with a dart in his face . . . a goalkeeper hit by a dart . . . a Swansea fan stabbed to death . . . Luxembourg destroyed by England supporters . . . English fan in tartan disrupts England/Scotland game . . . I could go on.

Ted Croker and the F.A. want to stop Scotland fans from coming to Wembley — he calls us hooligans. In Scotland, we don't have 50 per cent of the trouble the Football League has.

I suggest the F.A. clears up its own house before bothering others.

IAN McINTYRE,
RUTHERGLEN

● Fan murdered on a train . . . over 400 arrests . . . London folk terrorised by drunken Scots . . . that was the sad scene last May and that is why the Scottish F.A. are keen to stop Scotland fans coming to Wembley. That's why the Scottish Press was so critical of those few Scotland fans who spoil it for the majority.

Who's Brady kidding?

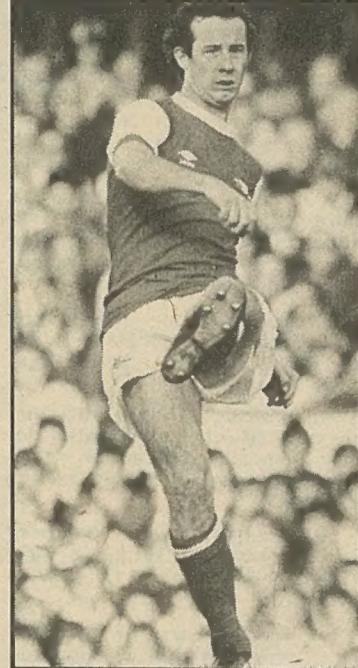
AM terribly disappointed and saddened that Liam Brady will leave Arsenal at the end of the season. I'm a Gunners fan, but if all Liam cares about is money then it's just as well he's going.

He has no loyalty at all. Of course, he denies money is his prime reason for wanting to play on the Continent. Who is he trying to kid?

Liam should have more respect for the club who put him where he is today.

Why can't players be like their ancestors, who played with their heart in the game?

NOREEN COLLINS,
CO. CORK



● Why shouldn't Brady (above) want to secure himself the best financial deal possible? Football is his living. Many other people work abroad because they can earn more money and it's wrong to criticise players for doing so.

Pen-pal

I'M an 11-year-old boy I'd like to have pen-pals who support Manchester United and England.

DAVID LIM,

8 COLCHESTER GROVE,
SINGAPORE 1955

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



1. Which Everton reserve player was forced to retire from football because of a heart illness?

2. Another player to announce he's quitting, due to injury, was Manchester United's Jimmy Greenhoff. Can you name the three previous clubs he played for?

3. Blackpool defender Brian Wilson was recently transferred for £15,000 to Torquay United or Tranmere Rovers?

4. Dixie McNeil (above), Mick Vinter or Joey Jones was sent-off for Wrexham against Charlton Athletic as he was about to take a penalty?

5. Goalkeeper Graeme Crawford and John Neenan swapped clubs recently. Which two sides were involved?

6. Hereford United signed Fred Binney from which Third Division club for £10,000 during January?

7. Mike Flanagan scored his first League goal for three months when he was on target in Crystal Palace's 1-0 win against which club as Selhurst Park in mid-January?

8. Spain beat Holland 1-0, 2-0 or 3-0 recently in a friendly?

9. After the games played on Saturday, January 19th, which clubs headed the (a) First, (b) Second, (c) Third, (d) Fourth and (e) Scottish Premier Divisions?



10. On the same Saturday, Phil Boyer (First), Clive Allen (above, Second), Alan Mayes (Third) and Ian Robins and Colin Garwood (joint Fourth) were the leading goalscorers... can you name their clubs?

11. Newport County knocked Cardiff City out of which competition recently?



12. Can you identify this young First Division striker signed during last summer for more than £700,000 from a Second Division club?

13. Liverpool suffered a 1-0 defeat by Nottingham Forest in the League Cup Semi-Final first-leg at the City Ground. Was the attendance 32,234, 42,234 or 52,234?

14. In the other Semi, Swindon beat Wolves 2-1 at home. Who scored the First Division side's goal?

15. Watford's Brian Pollard joined Millwall, Mansfield or York?

ANSWERS:

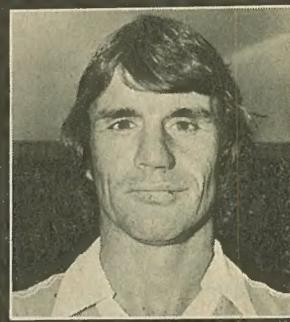
1. Martin Murray. 2. Leeds United. 3. Birmingham City. 4. Stoke City. 5. York City and Scunthorpe. 6. Plymouth. 7. Wolves. 8. 1-0. 9. (a) Liverpool, (b) Newcastle. 10. Huddersfield United. 11. Gertie. 12. Queens Park Rangers. 13. Southhampton. 14. Peter Daetzel.

15. Mansfield. 16. Peter Daetzel. 17. Welsh. 18. Misk Robins. 19. Manchester City. 20. (Portsmouth). 21. (Swindon). 22. (Huddersfield). 23. (Queens Park Rangers). 24. (Southampton). 25. (Birmingham). 26. (Newcastle). 27. (Leeds). 28. (Middlesbrough). 29. (Sheffield United). 30. (Southampton). 31. (Nottingham). 32. (West Ham). 33. (Southampton). 34. (Sheffield United). 35. (Newcastle). 36. (Sheffield United). 37. (Southampton). 38. (Sheffield United). 39. (Southampton). 40. (Sheffield United). 41. (Southampton). 42. (Southampton). 43. (Southampton). 44. (Southampton). 45. (Southampton). 46. (Southampton). 47. (Southampton). 48. (Southampton). 49. (Southampton). 50. (Southampton).

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (2) Dalglish. (6) Bear. (8) David Webb. (10) Book. (11) Car. (12) Reverence. (15) Yen. (17) Senior. (18) Me. (19) Pat. (21) Slid. (22) Old. (23) Zero. (25) Strong. (27) Route. (29) Be. (30) Sycamores.
DOWN:— (1) He. (2) Drake. (3) Leicester. (4) Lawrenson. (5) Hebbard. (6) Bobby Moore. (7) Adorn. (9) Dare. (13) Nil. (14) Coin. (16) Eel. (20) Aztec. (24) Room. (25) Sty. (26) Les. (28) Us. (29) Be. Jumbled Name: ALAN DEVONSHIRE.

NEXT SHOOT



Dave Watson reveals the worst mistake of his life in part three of his exclusive story.

KEVIN KEEGAN *family man — stunning colour pictures.*

The biggest decision of Aberdeen star Willie Miller's career.



John Gidman's troubled times at Everton.

Sunderland Club Spotlight — and Trevor Brooking's verdict on the North-East.

Ipswich's £200,000 signing Kevin O'Callaghan on his new club.

Previews F.A. Cup Fifth Round and Scottish Cup Fourth Round.

All this, and more,
in next week's
value-for-money
SHOOT!



HOME SWEET HOME

for Channon

Four-bedroomed detached house. Large garden, fully fitted kitchen, garage, two main reception rooms. Situated in pleasant suburb of Manchester.

THAT advertisement in local papers in Manchester and estate agents' offices tells the story of Mike Channon's main problem in life at the moment.

It's not Southampton's suspect away form or the fact that the defence is conceding too many goals that worry him. "No I'm very happy with everything on the playing side," says the ex-England striker.

"We'll keep working to get things right and I am confident that we can do well this season. The First Division is so tight. I'm

not saying that we can still make a realistic challenge for the title but I feel we can get a place in Europe next season."

"Just think, if Phil Boyer had scored half as many goals away from home as he has at The Dell, not only would he be well on the way to 30, but we'd be top of the table!"

Even though the easy-going Channon is enjoying his game back in familiar surroundings there is still the personal problem of sorting out his family life.

Says Mike: "You'd think it

to have a house built on it. In all there's about 30 acres, so it should be marvellous."

"The point is that it will take about six months to obtain the necessary permission and a lot more time to have it built, so it might all fit in nicely with the sale of the other house."

"Meanwhile, I've got to get used to the idea of living in an hotel in Southampton while my wife, Jane, and the two children, plus the dogs of course, are still in Manchester."

"I manage to see quite a lot of

them. Jane often comes down and stays for a few days and Lawrie McMenemy is good about allowing me to have a day or two at home."

To many fans it might appear that Mike's decision to pull up his family's roots and take them on the short-term visit to Manchester City was all a mistake and that he should never have been tempted to leave the club he had grown up with.

"It isn't that I won't admit the move was wrong. It wasn't. I needed to play for another club. I had no yardstick of alternative experience by which to judge Southampton.

'Sorry'

"Circumstances changed at Maine Road whilst I was there and nobody was more sorry than me when it became necessary for me to move. City were very good to me. The club is first class and I loved living in Manchester."

"Having been with City, I can now view Saints more objectively, and I am glad I am back at The Dell. So much has changed since the days just before I left. Everything is better run and is more geared to success. I can now see this clearly."

"I am delighted to say that here at The Dell we do most things along the same lines as City. Remember, when I left Southampton I chose to go to Maine Road because I had such a high regard for the club and that's why I'm pleased that we do things along similar lines at Southampton."

LIVERPOOL



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S12

FOCUS ON

Kenny

Dalglish

Liverpool

FULL NAME: Kenneth Dalglish
BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow
BIRTHDATE: 4th March, 1951
HEIGHT: 5ft 9ins
WEIGHT: 11st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Celtic
MARRIED: To Marina
CHILDREN: Kelly 4yrs, Paul 2½yrs
CAR: Colt Sapporo
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Denis Law
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Celtic
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: The next one
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1978 European Cup Final v FC Bruges
BIGGEST THRILL: Winning the above match
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing games
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Bermuda
FAVOURITE FOOD: Anything cooked by my wife
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Golf and my family
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Losing, smoking
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Sports programmes, George & Mildred, Rising Damp
FAVOURITE SINGER: Barbra Streisand
FAVOURITE ACTOR: Leonard Rossiter
BEST FRIEND: Hopefully, a few
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My family and the coaching staffs at all my clubs since I started as a boy
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: When wrongly accused of diving recently.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish Schools, Youth, Under-21 and full caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To give security to my wife and family
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To be successful
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A disappointed joiner
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Whoever is presenting future trophies

Kenny Dalglish

